



## Soviet plan threatens to divide allies

# Saddam plays for time but gets until tonight

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE allies have given Iraq until this evening to withdraw from Kuwait, France indicated yesterday. The issue would be resolved by force if Baghdad did not announce a pullout within 24 hours, the foreign minister, Roland Dumas, said.

Iraq has so far failed to respond to Soviet proposals to end the Gulf war, prompting speculation in Moscow and the West that President Saddam Hussein is playing for time.

Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, had been expected in Moscow with an answer today. But Vitali Churkin, the Soviet foreign ministry spokesman, said he was now not sure whether he would return in person. The Soviet Union was awaiting a speedy response, through the Iraqi embassy, by telex or by any other means.

The Iranian foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, hoped Iraq would respond very clearly and very soon. But he added: "We have to wait until tomorrow." Dr Velayati met President Mitterrand yesterday and said after-

The main points of the Soviet peace plan are:  
● Stage One: complete, unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, followed by a ceasefire.  
● Stage Two: reparations; annulment of Kuwait's 1961 independence; peace and security established in the region.  
● Issues such as prisoners-of-war to be discussed after withdrawal.  
● All parties guarantee Iraq's territorial integrity.  
● International community to deal with Arab-Israeli conflict. No Soviet promise to lift arms embargo on Iraq.

Javier Pérez de Cuellar said the initiative presented a unique opportunity to avert a ground offensive. He suggested that Iraq might need another day to respond.

The Soviet plan was outlined in London by the ambassador, Leonid Zamyatin, and his disclosure caused some embarrassment to Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, since the West had promised to keep it secret.

Britain, like America, says the plan is unsatisfactory because it does not demand full Iraqi compliance with all UN resolutions. However, Mr Hurd did not dismiss it out of hand, and urged the Russians to try to modify it.

Britain believes that unless Iraq gives cast-iron guarantees of full compliance with all of the UN resolutions before a ceasefire, the coalition will have little leverage once the fighting stops.

wards that both Iran and France were determined to "put an end to this disaster".

M Dumas told a cabinet meeting that Saddam must "choose clearly and without further delay between withdrawal from Kuwait and continuation of the war". The French commander in the Gulf indicated, however, that a land war would not begin before Friday.

The Soviet proposals, officially still confidential, are said to call for a three-stage approach: an Iraqi declaration of withdrawal, a ceasefire and withdrawal. The idea has received broad world support, which yesterday reinforced to open a rift between the United States and its European and Arab allies. After intense diplomatic exchanges, Britain made clear that it was not rejecting the plan, but found it inadequate.

The White House appeared increasingly isolated in its hard-line approach. Moscow accused the Americans of going beyond the United Nations mandate and trying to destroy the Iraqi regime. European leaders urged acceptance of the plan, with Italy warmly welcoming it as fully in line with the UN resolutions. The Maghreb countries called for an immediate ceasefire, and the UN Secretary-General,

Continued on page 24, col 6



Sean Hick, one of four people charged with murder and belonging to the IRA, being escorted by armed policemen to the courtroom in the Dutch town of Roermond yesterday. His goggles were designed to prevent eye contact with the other prisoners. Report, page 24

## US troops take 450 Iraqi PoWs

From Reuters, Riyadh

HELICOPTER-borne American troops crossed the northern Saudi border yesterday to round up at least 450 Iraqi soldiers who surrendered after being blasted out of their bunkers by air attack, a US military spokesman reported.

Brigadier-General Richard Neal said the incident began at 11am London time and was continuing when he began his briefing four hours later. His description made clear that the clash was primarily an air attack by American helicopter gunships. US troops - referred to as "security forces" - landed only after 13 Iraqi bunkers were destroyed and the Iraqi soldiers had indicated they were ready to surrender, he said.

General Neal also reported that an American serviceman was killed and seven others were wounded in a separate ground clash with Iraqi troops at the border. He did not give the location of either incident.

The general said that allied planes flew more than 2,900 sorties in the previous 24 hours, keeping up their pounding of Iraqi forces in preparation for a possible ground assault. About a hundred of the air raids were aimed at Scud missile launchers and related targets.

When Iraq fired a Scud at Israel on Tuesday night, American planes in the area saw the missile rise up through the clouds. B52 heavy bombers later pounded the launch site, setting off explosions on the ground, General Neal said.

Sixty miles north of the Saudi border, American aircraft bombed a dug-in force of Iraqi armour and artillery, destroying 28 tanks, 20 lorries and three guns, the US spokesman reported.

The skirmish in which an American was killed and seven wounded began when US and Iraqi forces along the border came into view of each other and opened fire. General Neal said five Iraqi tanks were destroyed, seven Iraqis were captured and three American vehicles damaged. He said no Americans were hurt in the separate attack which netted the 450 Iraqi prisoners.

sanctuary was subsequently set up where other women delegates were guaranteed safety and the Australian federal police called in.

In an article to be published by the *Church of England Newspaper* tomorrow, the Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York and one of 19 Church of England delegates at the meeting, describes how his sensibilities were shocked when wandering around the foyer of the convention centre. "I found a table set up commending a feminist book which was surrounded by pornographic cartoons, including a couple performing an unnatural act. I managed to overcome the temptation to overturn the tables of those who sold porn and simply removed all the cartoons, to the fury of the woman who was on duty at the stall." When he took them to the information desk, they were handed back to the woman

## Labour leaks Rosyth closure documents

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TIMETABLE for planning and announcing the closure of the Rosyth naval base in Scotland was included in a series of Ministry of Defence documents leaked by the Labour leadership yesterday.

Gordon Brown, the shadow trade and industry secretary, whose Dunfermline East constituency includes Rosyth, disclosed a series of internal documents purporting to show the remit of the closure team, their proposed timetable and a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Livesey, chief flag officer for Scotland and Northern Ireland, which he said spelt out the cost, risks and implications of the closure plan.

Mr Brown told a Westminster press conference that with a closure team at Rosyth, a timetable for closure set

down and a refusal to consider the economic, strategic and defence case against it, it was clear that the Rosyth workforce and personnel serving in the Gulf had been deceived over the real intentions behind the government's Options for Change review.

The defence ministry at first refused to comment on Mr Brown's detailed claims but later Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, said that while it was not yet clear that Rosyth was going to close "we are certainly looking at that possibility."

The leaked paper set February 25 as the deadline for completion of a report by the Rosyth options study group, March 19 as the day when the Navy Board will receive a report for decision and March

28 as the day the decision will be approved by ministers.

Mr Hamilton, questioned on BBC radio 4's *The World at One*, said: "These are all confidential documents. I cannot comment on the particular timetable we have got here." He added, however, that it was "probably true" that Rosyth was the only base where a committee had been set up to discuss and present to ministers a timetable for closure.

The leaked letter from Vice-Admiral Livesey to Admiral Sir Jeremy Black, commander-in-chief of the naval home command, spoke of his deep and wide-ranging concerns about the possible closure and the associated savings measure. He wrote of potentially higher costs resulting in the support area and serious manpower implications in Rosyth and throughout Scotland and the North.

Mr Brown said the closure of Rosyth would have a devastating effect on the local economy. At risk were the thousands of jobs at the base and the related employment of 1,700 people in the local economy.

## Halifax trims home loan rate

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

THE HALIFAX, Britain's largest building society, yesterday put pressure on the government and the Bank of England to cut base rates again by cutting mortgage rates for new borrowers by 0.75 per cent to 13.75 per cent. It promised the same cut for half a million existing borrowers if base rates fell.

Jim Birrell, the society's chief executive, said: "We want to give new borrowers the benefit of lower interest rates as soon as possible and set a clear lead for existing borrowers when base rates do fall further. Lower mortgage rates will pave the way for a gradual recovery in the housing market."

The Halifax said it was reviewing the 14.5 per cent rate set for its 1.3 million customers on annual review, but planned no cut yet.

Government figures confirmed the recession and aroused hopes of a fresh cut in interest rates. However, the Bank of England signalled strongly that it wanted base rate to stay at 13.5 per cent.

Food imports, page 4  
Full report, page 25

## Gorbachev hits back



President Gorbachev yesterday headed off the call by Boris Yeltsin (above) for his resignation. The agenda of the Soviet parliament was turned upside down to accommodate speaker after speaker who accused the president of everything from "poor taste" to "inciting civil war". Page 11  
Leading article, page 15

## Food gap

Britain's food and drink trade gap widened by 9 per cent last year to reach £5.1 billion, replacing the motor vehicle sector as the biggest single contributor to the national current account deficit. Page 4

## Charity accused

The International Freedom Foundation has accused the Charity Commission of being politically biased because it has taken too long to complete an investigation of Oxfam. Page 10

## Royal symbol

The Queen has approved a new design of the royal crown to commemorate next year's 40th anniversary of her accession. Diary, page 14

## Worry lines

Lessons in coping with fear can be learnt from Gulf troops, which could help nervous rail travellers. Page 19

## Trade talks hope

World trade reform talks were revived yesterday as trade negotiators at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade meeting in Geneva agreed a formula under which European Community and American negotiators could continue to debate farm cuts. Page 25

## Fighting spirit belies US views

By MARIE COLVIN, OF THE SUNDAY TIMES, REPORTING FROM MOSCOW, NORTHERN IRAQ

CONTRARY to General Norman Schwarzkopf's report of an army in virtual collapse and articles in the Western press about shivering and under-fed Iraqi soldiers, I have not spotted one such individual after a month in Iraq and extensive travelling between Basra and Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad.

Most Iraqi soldiers I have met are more like the four I joined for an early morning drink outside a tea parlour in Mosul. There is no electricity in any Iraqi city so, despite the drizzle of rain, anyone who was up at 8 o'clock chose to sit on the benches outside.

The four soldiers joked about subjects troops in Iran and had received word they might be coming home. He is one of

Continued on page 24, col 1

## Sex casts a shadow over church 'jamboree'

By RUTH GLEDHILL AND ROBERT COCKBURN

ALLEGATIONS of serious sexual improprieties dogged the final sessions of the World Council of Churches as a senior archbishop called for the Church of England to reconsider its membership.

At the close of the seventh assembly yesterday, the delegates, who include Dr George Carey, Archbishop-designate of Canterbury, were searching their souls to explain an allegation of sexual assault by a Christian man on a female colleague. The scandal broke in *The Canberra Times*, which reported that a religious leader had asked a female delegate to perform a sexual act on him. The woman refused. The man is then alleged to have beaten her over the head until she surrendered to his demand. A

## Tory council cuts poll tax

By RAY CLANCY

THE Conservative flagship Westminster city council yesterday announced a community charge of £176, almost £20 less than that for last year, when it had the second-lowest in England and Wales. Dame Shirley Porter, leader of the council, also announced that she would not be seeking re-election as Tory group leader.

The council was immediately accused of spending more on hanging baskets to decorate London and less on services for the elderly, homeless and poor.



Lady Porter: announced her retirement

Local authorities are currently agreeing charges for 1991/92 while Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, reviews local government finance amid expectations by many observers that he will announce in April plans to abolish the poll tax.

Some councils are still behind in collecting the first year of the unpopular charge, and others are taking fine decisions on budgets in order to avoid capping. The government this week announced that nine out of ten people have now made some contribution towards the poll tax, but the numbers paying in full vary widely between councils.

The Westminster charge is expected to be one of the lowest and is due to be approved by the full council on March 6. The controlling Conservatives claimed that good housekeeping and reductions in red tape had enabled the council to reduce the poll tax. Bill Griffiths, chairman of the finance committee, said that overheads had been cut in many departments and that £700,000 less would be spent on collecting the tax.

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INDEX	
Arts	21-22
Births, marriages, deaths	20
Books	25-29
Business	25-29
Classified	17, 18, 29
Court & social	16
Crosswords	16, 24
Health	19
Law Report	15
Leading articles	15
Letters	16
Obituaries	18
Science & technology	16
Sport	31-33
TV & radio	23
Weather	24



# Buck stops at Bush's desk in lonely countdown to land war

HARRY Truman's famous buck has now stopped firmly on George Bush's desk. The president, increasingly alone now, has to make the choice between launching a ground war or playing the spectator at a theatrical peace process backed by his superpower rival.

He cannot lean much more on his military advisers who, in the White House view, are taking an almost macabre pleasure in saying that their forces are finally ready. He cannot lean on his diplomats, whose leader, the Secretary of State, James Baker, sits grumpily in his tent. He cannot lean on his vice-president, whose already dim reputation is dulling by the day. And Barbara Bush, in the words of a friend, is "far too smart to mess with the Middle East".

As Mr Bush grapples with his miniature Hiroshima, it is a trick of fate that his closest confidant should be the highest-ranking Arab American in the nation's history, White House chief of

staff, John Sununu. But he is a domestic animal and his top priority is to get the President reelected. The only foreign policy specialist at the lonely table is national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, and it is upon him that the outcome must heavily depend.

General Scowcroft is a single minded man. Like the President he is probably in his last top public service job. When the two of them are together (which is often) the fall of President Saddam Hussein appears a simple worthwhile objective, a fitting cap on careers which were founded in the second world war, fixed by the cold war, and deeply influenced by the dangers of letting tyrants run too freely for too long.

Their joint instincts are to finish the job by removing the Iraqi dictator, fixing that achievement firmly in the book of history and only then looking to the future. The latest Soviet initiative is an anathema, not only because it may keep Saddam in power but because it

As George Bush faces the dilemma of war or peace, Peter Stoohard argues that such a crucial foreign policy decision cannot be divorced from domestic interests

was so predictable that Moscow would want to confuse their best hopes.

Mr Baker is also capable of single-minded determination when conditions demand it. But that time is not now, he thinks. Since the beginning of the confrontation, he has been sceptical of second world war analogies, the harsh rhetoric and the view that in the Middle East a firm cap can be put on anything.

He has pinned his hopes and political ambitions, on encouraging Mr Gorbachev's reforms and on an upheaval in the Arab world which would give the best chance for future negotiations. A ground war, he believes, would

do grievous harm to prospects for both. While the President and General Scowcroft share a degree of faith in exemplary justice and the cleansing power of force, Mr Baker, the former Houston lawyer, is more of a pragmatist. He does not think that the death of Saddam would necessarily intimidate a successor. He knows that the deaths of thousands of US troops would intimidate the American public. Iraq has never had a sensible government, one state department aide said the other day: "so what makes the White House think that next time will be any different?"

Other State Department officials put

Mr Baker's worries more bluntly. "He does not want Cheney and Powell to get the glory for a triumphant entry of US troops into Kuwait while he is left with the hassle of getting them out," according to one loyalist.

The Secretary of State is not at the end of his career. He would like a shot at the Presidency in 1996. Although he originally fought the choice of Dan Quayle for vice-president, he has been happy since then to allow Mr Quayle to keep the successor's seat warm. The war has changed that calculation. The Vice President has looked even more jejune than before, so much so that even close friends think that he may be removed from the ticket in 1992. What he says is still substantial. Last Thursday he made an effective case to a liberal Jewish forum in Miami that its current favour for desert war should be maintained when it came to supporting future Pentagon budgets. But, as a politician, he is not progressing, and even his

conservative friends know it.

Richard Cheney is attracting attention. Still more so is Colin Powell, the Jamaican-American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. For a few weeks the idea of a "black Eisenhower" moving from military to political triumph seemed merely a journalistic cliché. But now it has become a nightmare for those who want an office next to a President Baker.

If the Democrats look like putting Virginia's black governor, Douglas Wilder, on their 1992 ticket, that could be the end of Dan Quayle. In a recession economy, with war successes sinking out of memory, a lock on the black vote could be decisive. The easiest way to get the President angry at the moment, it is said, is to suggest that the terrible choice of compromise or war can in any way be connected to domestic politics. But, as his top advisers know well, even at the court of gentleman George Bush loyalty begins at home.

## DIPLOMACY

### Allies seek to force Iraqis into rigid peace framework

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN and America's response to the Soviet peace plan is apparently designed to avoid a repetition of the inconclusive settlement to the Iran-Iraq war, which enabled Baghdad to avoid making key concessions by dragging out negotiations.

Western diplomats said yesterday that the Soviet plan makes no provision for the return of allied prisoners of war, including Kuwaitis. Nor does it force Iraq to recognise the United Nations Security Council resolution nullifying the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait. Their fear was that if Iraq agreed to an unconditional withdrawal without accepting such terms, it would be impossible to force Baghdad to make those concessions once the shooting stopped.

"The worst thing that could happen would be to have a ceasefire that leads to a lot of wrangling that needs a resumption of fighting," one diplomat said yesterday. "Just look at the experience of the Iran-Iraq war, how much bargaining in the souk was

required." Iran learnt the lessons of negotiating with Iraq the hard way after the end of the Iran-Iraq war. The two sides agreed to a ceasefire in August 1988 within the framework of a UN Security Council resolution 598, passed a year earlier, after eight years of war.

However, Iraq refused to relinquish occupied Iranian territory, to abandon its claim to full sovereignty over the Shatt al-Arab waterway dividing the two countries, or to return Iranian prisoners.

Baghdad insisted that the negotiations foreseen by resolution 598 should take place before any concessions by Iraq. Some 15 rounds of talks took place in Geneva with no result over the succeeding two years. It was only on August 4 last year, two days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, that Iraq - seeking a friendly neighbour - agreed to withdraw from Iran, respect an agreement on the Shatt al-Arab and return prisoners. Muhammad Mahallati, Iraq's ambassador to the UN during the Iran-Iraq negotia-

tions, but now a scholar-in-residence at Columbia University, said: "According to my own direct experience, the Iraqi authorities do not respect any other word but force." He cautioned that Iraq's peace proposal last Friday appeared to try to exploit a similar loophole in the basic Security Council resolution on the Gulf as in resolution 598. Resolution 660, passed the day Iraq invaded Kuwait, called for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal. It also sought immediate intensive negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait.

One Western diplomat at the United Nations said the Soviet peace plan was "gently dying" and that Moscow was engaged in "creative backsliding". He said: "The Iraqis appear to be trying to play long. There is going to be a point when the Iraqi desire to play long and the Soviet willingness to acquiesce are going to run up against the American desire to start a ground offensive."

Iraq's ambassador has said that what Baghdad is seeking as a price for a withdrawal is a framework for the other issues named in the Iraqi communiqué, including an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, to be addressed.

He told the Security Council on Saturday: "Resolution 660, which Iraq announced it is ready to accept, refers to withdrawal from Kuwait territory but also refers to immediate and intensive negotiations."

Mr Mahallati, the former Iranian envoy, warned the allies against entering into talks with Iraq unless the ground rules were clear on such points as the Iraqi recognition of Kuwait.

● PEKING: Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, told Sadoun Hammadi, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, in Peking yesterday that Baghdad should withdraw its forces from Kuwait immediately, but he failed to endorse any peace initiatives (Catherine Sampson writes).

Mr Li said that China was "grieved and anxious" about civilian casualties and the possible escalation of the war. He described the February 15 offer of a conditional withdrawal as "a positive change", the first indication of Iraqi willingness to pull out, but insisted that the withdrawal must be unconditional.

Mr Hammadi arrived from Moscow on Tuesday night for a brief visit on the orders of President Saddam Hussein.

Clifford Longley, page 14  
Leading article, page 15



Headline message: an American soldier, expressing a prayer on his helmet, stands to attention on a Patriot anti-missile missile base in the Gulf. Patriots have been used to bring down many Iraqi Scuds fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia

## KUWAIT

### Corpses piled up in ice-rink where children once skated

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE ice-skating rink in Kuwait City has been turned into a mortuary by the Iraqi occupiers and when Kuwaitis report relatives as missing they are sent to look among bodies heaped under blankets, an exile has said.

Badriya al-Awadi, the former dean of Kuwait University, said: "It is a big ice-rink and it is full, maybe 300 or 400 corpses. Many of the bodies are unrecognisable, they are so badly beaten."

"I remember going to the ice-rink to see the Bolshoi on ice. Before that we had Czechoslovakians performing. It was a beautiful place, a happy place. Now it is awful. A place where children played, now bathed in blood. Imagine it."

Professor Awadi estimated there had been about 5,000 Kuwaiti deaths. "People there say they don't know where

their children are. People go out from their homes and don't come back. They hear shooting in the city centre."

She added that said that some 17,000 Kuwaitis, mostly civilians, have been held prisoner by Iraqi troops since the invasion on August 2. About 2,000 civilians were held in a camp at Mosul in north Iraq, 4,000 military personnel were held near Baghdad and 2,000 other people were in a camp near Kuwait City.

Bahraini Badr Jassem al-Yakoub, Kuwait information minister, said Iraqi forces started holding Kuwaiti families as human shields against a feared allied land offensive on Tuesday.

One torture centre had been established in a large city villa and another in an office block near the four-star Sheraton hotel.

Terrified residents of Kuwait are suffering nervous breakdowns, heart attacks and miscarriages because of the Gulf war, refugees reaching Jordan said yesterday.

A Jordanian teacher said: "We have no nerves left. People are breaking down from lack of sleep and fear." Hanan Salabat, a Palestinian, said: "Sometimes I feel death was chasing me all the time."

Khaled Saegaddine, a Palestinian student, compared waiting in Kuwait for an allied ground offensive with sitting on a powder keg. "Now the planes are hitting mainly military targets but when the assault starts it will be street to street. It won't spare anyone."

Kuwaitis said water and power supplies in the capital were down to three hours a day, rubbish lay on the streets, and telephone lines were cut.

## FRANCE

### Paris urges US to wait for an Iraqi response

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Mitterrand discreetly asked the United States and Britain to give Baghdad more time to consider the Soviet peace plan yesterday "and not to precipitate things" as Paris chivvied Iraq to respond quickly, diplomatic sources said.

Daniel Bernard, a foreign ministry spokesman, said it would be quite natural for a UN Security Council meeting to be held if Iraq accepted Moscow's proposals. He emphasised that only a massive and rapid retreat would be acceptable to France.

M Bernard denied suggestions that Paris and Washington were deeply divided over the Soviet plan. "Everyone has his own way of expressing himself on this subject, but it would be presumptuous to draw conclusions about divergences."

Roland Dumas, the foreign minister, called on President Saddam Hussein to express his intentions "clearly and without delay in the coming hours". A spokesman for M. Dumas quoted him as saying: "By underlining that the Iraqi president ought to make known his intentions in the coming hours, France has shown she remains attached to a peaceful solution of the crisis. But that (solution) cannot turn its back on the principles enunciated by the UN Security Council and to which we have adhered in participating in the action in the Gulf."

Sources at the Quai d'Orsay said the Soviet plan "was a little insufficient" as it lacked "considerations of dates". But the French position amounted to "a message destined for the United States, inviting them to give time to Baghdad to reply to the Soviet plan", they said. M. Mitterrand telephoned President Bush and John Major, the prime minister, on Tuesday night and asked them "not to precipitate things", the sources said.

M Dumas said that "the imminence of irreversible

events on the ground, a land offensive, has engendered a revival of diplomatic activity. But more than ever the ultimate decision belongs to Saddam Hussein, who must choose clearly and without further delay between the evacuation of Kuwait and the continuation of the war."

There will be no ground war for at least two days, General Daniel Gazeau, in charge of French ground troops in Operation Desert Storm, said yesterday. Soldiers on both sides of the battle lines will continue sizing each other up during that time, he told French television. "I can tell you that, as of now, there is nothing in particular in the coming 48 hours."

### Guarded Kinnock support for Soviet plan

London - Neil Kinnock yesterday gave guarded support to the Soviet initiative to end the Gulf war. But he again deflected a left-wing move to change the party's stance on the war and to back a ceasefire so that a fresh round of diplomacy could be launched (Philip Webster writes).

Mr Kinnock received a general briefing from Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet ambassador, about the Soviet position but he was not given details of the plan. Yesterday, he told a private meeting of Labour MPs that all the reports suggested the Soviet position was that Iraq should withdraw unconditionally and immediately, and that this should be followed by a ceasefire. He said if that was the case it was a "pretty fair reflection" of Labour policy.

He emphasised, however, that any move to a solution must begin with a withdrawal of Iraqi forces, an end to any threat to the coalition forces and the immediate release of prisoners of war.

### Policy switch

Warsaw - Kuwait has signalled it will pursue a different foreign policy towards East Europe after the Gulf war. The deputy foreign minister, Suleiman al-Shachim, visited Warsaw this week to discuss diplomatic relations, financial compensation for Polish losses and lucrative reconstruction projects.

### Protective coat

Washington - An American paint company has sent 60 tonnes of a special paint to the Gulf to protect allied tanks and other armoured vehicles from "friendly fire". American reports said the paint makes tanks and military vehicles more easily identifiable by allied planes' infrared detectors. (AFP)

### Contract talks

London - The government has begun negotiating with the Kuwaiti government-in-exile for an extension to a deadline for bids for rebuilding contracts in the emirate after the war. British construction firms were told earlier this week that they had only until noon yesterday to put in bids for postwar work. (Reuters)

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## WAR IN THE GULF: DAY 35

### ALLIED FORCES

**SORTIES:** More than 85,000 air missions flown since war began on January 17.  
**CLAIMS:** James Baker, the US state secretary, said Kuwait would be liberated soon. Helicopters with US troops crossed the northern Saudi border and rounded up at least 450 Iraqi soldiers. They surrendered after they were forced out of their bunkers by air attack. The US said. Some 60 miles north of the Saudi border, American planes bombed Iraqi armour and artillery, destroying 28 tanks, 20 trucks and three guns, the US reported. An Iraqi ammunition bunker erupted in a massive fireball sending smoke 15,000 feet into the air after an attack by RAF Tornados. It was the biggest explosion seen during the conflict, a British forces spokesman said. The RAF also destroyed a fuel storage facility and five hangars at the airfield. At sea, one of the Royal Navy's five minehunters discovered two sophisticated "ground" mines in the northern Gulf.

After Iraq fired a Scud at Israel on Tuesday night, US B-52 heavy bombers later pounded the launch site, setting off explosions on the ground.

**LOSSES:** One American was killed and seven wounded in yesterday's attacks.

### IRAQI FORCES

An Iraqi military communiqué, its 55th of the war, said the armed forces inflicted heavy casualties on allied troops that mounted an attack across Kuwait's border. It said allied planes carried out 58 air raids on civilian targets. These included residential areas, a mosque, two elementary schools, a number of bridges and roads and small fishing boats. It also reported 90 allied raids on Iraqi military targets in southern Iraq and Kuwait.

**ALLIED WAR AIMS**  
Resolution 660 of the United Nations Security Council, passed on 2 August, condemns Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and calls for an unconditional withdrawal and negotiations. Resolution 678 authorises Kuwait's allies to "use all necessary means" to uphold previous resolutions calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

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## Uncle Sam's Mexican army marches on

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

IF THE United States launches a ground war in the Gulf, one in every three of its soldiers will in fact be a Mexican serving as cannon fodder for Uncle Sam. That claim, reported in the Mexican newspaper *Excelsior*, is but one of a wave of war rumours swirling through Mexico, feeding off the country's deep grievance towards the giant northern neighbour.

Like just about every other event that touches the US, the Gulf war took a Mexican spin the day it was launched. At first, US immigration patrols reported a sudden drop in the daily flood of poor Mexicans crossing the Rio Grande and the long desert border in search of work.

They apparently feared gringo press gangs who were rumoured to be lurking in the countryside, snatching up illegal arrivals and packing them off to the Saudi desert as human

mine-sweepers. By the time the American embassy in Mexico City pointed out that only US citizens could serve in the forces, it was too late - the idea of Uncle Sam's Mexican army had caught on. Mexican newspapers reported that Mexicans who had worked or studied in the United States were receiving letters from the US military enticing them to come back and sign up for service.

"Apparently we are cheap and they think we know all about deserts," said Jaime, a New York-based Mexican cleaner. US reporters attempted to see copies of the alleged letters, but were unable to elicit any.

But the opposition scented a good opportunity for bashing the generally pro-US Salinas administration and began denouncing the recruitment of Mexicans to the

gringo war. Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, a left-wing leader, denounced the fate of "thousands of Mexicans that are already in the deserts of Arabia, enlisted in an army and under a flag that are not ours."

President Salinas, who has condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but avoided endorsing the American-led action, dismissed the allegations as nonsense, but as usual there was large enough grain of truth in the tale to propel the most overheated fiction. The Pentagon says about five per cent of the US forces are designated as Hispanic, many of Chicano, or Mexican, descent and some of them immigrants who signed on after being naturalised as citizens. A number of Hispanic and black activists in the US are claiming that members of their race are expected to "do the

dying" by a white American establishment.

As always with Mexico's tortured ties to the US, many poor Mexicans have been tempted by the lure of wealth to the other side of the frontier. In Texas, army recruiters say Mexicans willing to risk combat in exchange for US citizenship have also been appearing at army offices along the border.

This week America was regaled with the tale of the town of Valle de Santiago, where a local editor decided to reprint a US recruiting advertisement originally aimed at Spanish-speakers of the US South. "US armed forces, where opportunity awaits your sons... \$1,500 per month". The mention of a pay cheque beyond the dreams of a campesino was enough to spark an exodus.

السلامة العامة



## MILITARY BRIEFING

# Schwarzkopf says Iraqis are on verge of defeat

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON  
AND MICHAEL EVANS

IRAQ'S huge army is "on the verge of collapse", the commander of Operation Desert Storm said yesterday as border clashes between American and Iraqi forces intensified, reinforcing the impression that a full-scale allied land offensive may begin at any moment.

In one clash, American troops landed north of the Saudi border to take prisoner at least 450 Iraqi soldiers who surrendered after four American helicopters attacked their bunkers. This was the largest battle since the last month and the first acknowledged mission of American troops operating well within enemy-occupied territory.

General Norman Schwarzkopf told the *Los Angeles Times* that the Iraqis were losing about two tank battalions, or more than 100 tanks, a day to allied air strikes, a rate of attrition no army could survive. Although the Iraqi military was not yet broken, and would almost certainly try to use chemical weapons in a ground war, it was "hurting and hurting badly", he said.

He portrayed the Iraqi forces as increasingly demoralised, beset by desertions and commanded by an inept leader. Another US military official told reporters that casualties among Iraqi troops in Kuwait were horrendous.

General Schwarzkopf likened the war so far to "a beagle chasing a rabbit", and his comments underscored a principal reason why President Bush has cold-shouldered the Soviet peace plan. The administration believes that an overwhelming military victory is in sight, and sees no reason why President Saddam Hussein should be allowed to survive in power.

Allied warplanes have adopted new tactics against the 4,200 Iraqi tanks in or near Kuwait. The changes have increased their success rate dramatically and diminished the prospect of a bloody and protracted ground war. In barely a week, the allies have nearly doubled to at least 1,400 the number of Iraqi tanks destroyed.

The coalition forces have switched to precision-guided "smart" bombs instead of relatively inaccurate gravity bombs, and they are now using infra-red equipment to detect the heat given off by dug-in tanks. This is proving particularly successful, soon after dark when the sand cools faster than the tanks.

General Schwarzkopf said Iraq's military performance had confirmed what the allies had long suspected, that after an eight-year battle with Iran, the army had no real desire to fight again. Baghdad had grossly underestimated the power of the allied forces. Even if the war ended today, he said, Iraq's military machine would have suffered a "very dramatic setback".

US military spokesmen gave details yesterday of a number of engagements in the

previous 24 hours that suggest allied land forces are now conducting more than mere reconnaissance missions against the Iraqis. Apart from the helicopter attack on the Iraqi bunkers, American tanks and armoured personnel carriers had fought Iraqi forces along the border. One allied soldier was killed, seven were wounded, two Bradley fighting vehicles were lost, but five Iraqi tanks and 20 artillery pieces had been destroyed.

In another border engagement, American army units had engaged a patrol of about a dozen Iraqis, destroying an armoured personnel carrier. A concentration of about 300 Iraqi vehicles north of the border had been pounded for several hours, destroying 25 tanks, 26 vehicles, three artillery pieces and three ammunition storage areas.

Brigadier General Richard Neale, of Central Command (Centcom), said coalition forces were attacking Iraqi positions with artillery, helicopters and tactical air strikes and were continuing "aggressive patrolling and reconnaissance efforts across the border area". Warplanes had flown 1,000 sorties against Iraqi forces in the Kuwait theatre of operations in the previous 24 hours.

A British military spokesman said yesterday that the allies were still facing a potentially dangerous enemy, capable of fighting a land battle. Group Captain Niall Irving said that some Iraqi units had been more badly hit than



Schwarzkopf: Saddam's army is "hurting badly"

others, but that did not mean that the whole Iraqi army was demoralised.

He confirmed that several soldiers from the Republican Guard had defected, but it was "hardly surprising" after the bombing they had endured and the numbers were not significant.

RAF Tornados were reported to have hit two ammunition dumps at air bases in Iraq, one of which blew up, sending a black cloud 15,000ft into the air. Artillery destroyed by British multiple launch rocket systems two days ago were all 122mm D30s, which are among the oldest of Iraq's towed howitzers.

Letters, page 15



Damp course: allied soldiers waiting for assistance in the northern Saudi desert, flooded by heavy overnight rain, after their lorry broke down on the way to the front yesterday

## KUWAITI BORDER

## US army scouts play deadly game of cat and mouse

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON WITH BRITISH TROOPS OVERLOOKING NO MAN'S LAND

DRIVING up to the front, we saw two American multiple-launch rocket systems in action, sending a stream of fire arcing out above us, then heard the deep thud of distant explosions. The rockets are apparently accurate to a terrifying degree for those on the receiving end, fully justifying their reputation as "grid square removal kits".

Their normal tactics are to fire a salvo or two, then move on before the Iraqis' considerable ability to bring down counter-battery fire

within a short space of time is tested: on this occasion, however, there were no shells coming our way, conceivably because the enemy gunners have learned the bitter lesson that opening up virtually guarantees detection by allied observation posts and another hail of incoming artillery.

Encouraged by a team of US Army scouts in this no man's land, we scrambled to the top of their protective sand berm, feeling mildly exposed but enjoying a clear

view out towards the forward Iraqi positions. Nothing moved beneath the baking midday sun. "After dark we sometimes see a flash of light over there, and last night someone started sweeping the dead zone with a big beam," said Sergeant Bruce Culper, the team leader. "Kinda crazy thing to do, because we called that straight into the artillery and they soon had us back to normal."

When we set off back towards the allied lines, a sudden series of

muzzle flashes signalled another salvo from the big guns astride a nearby ridge. From there, we gazed out over a vast assembly of troops, armour and more guns, stretching as far as the eye could see.

Coming up, we had seen an eagle swooping and rising over the inhospitable terrain, still wet from a furious storm the night before. At every allied encampment, sodden sleeping bags were hung out to dry on tent poles, like some weird crop of fruit. Most of the troops we

passed were taking it easy, under orders to get plenty of rest in case the ground attack begins.

A trio of B-52 bombers appeared, flying at an almost leisurely approach to their bombing run. The hollow crumps followed shortly. Evidence of previous visits from the bombers lay all around us, leadlets dropped by tens of thousands in an attempt to persuade Iraqi troops to desert.

Fear counselling, page 19

## LEBANON

## Israelis bomb guerrillas

FROM ALI JABER  
IN BEIRUT

THE Israeli airforce raided positions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine near the Syrian-Lebanese border yesterday, wounding three guerrillas. Security sources said that two F16 jets dropped four 1,000lb bombs on Ezzi village, only six kilometres from the Syrian frontier in eastern Lebanon, and destroyed a two-storey building used as a base for attacks against Israel.

It was the fifth Israeli air raid against the guerrilla group's positions in Lebanon this year and the first since the Lebanese army deployed two weeks ago to halt guerrilla attacks against the Jewish state. Police said the wounded were transferred to hospitals in the area. Israel radio reported that the jets returned safely to base.

A Lebanese air force training jet exploded in the air and crashed in eastern Lebanon yesterday, killing its crew of two. An army communiqué said the command tower lost communications with the American-made Bulldog training plane while it was flying over the Bekaa valley. It was later discovered near the village of Shmistar, 30 miles from Beirut. It was the latest in a series of crashes due to technical faults that have plagued the ageing Lebanese air force.

## ROYAL AIR FORCE

## Lucky charms give a lift for pilots under strain

FROM LIN JENKINS IN THE GULF

WING Commander Pablo Mason attracts concerned glances as he prepares for his next sortie still wearing a white T-shirt. As the time to talk to the aircraft approaches, some voice their concern. "Everything all right, sir?" asks one.

The wing commander knows what is on their minds and changes into his red T-shirt. He has worn it on every mission he has flown since Operation Desert Storm began. All his colleagues on Tornados at the base have similar superstitions, routines or lucky charms. When the limits of professionalism have been reached, there is comfort in superstition.

One pilot has worn the same pair of socks on every mission. They have yet to be washed. He is clearly embarrassed about being so obsessive, let alone anti-social, yet refuses to change in case it alters his luck. Such behaviour in peacetime would have attracted gibes from colleagues on the squadron, but in war it is acceptable. Most of them put their faith in something.

Wing Commander Mason said: "You think that they are your own personal secrets of survival, personal lucky charms, but they are not. Other people do notice."

The red T-shirt was only brought out at the last minute, having spent the past few years hidden at the bottom of a drawer. "I was wearing it the day I had a mid-air collision with an Iraqi student some years ago. I ejected and came away with just a few

scratches, and when the statisticians got hold of it we should have been dead. The T-shirt was a bit burnt and got a few holes, but I always wear it when I'm flying now."

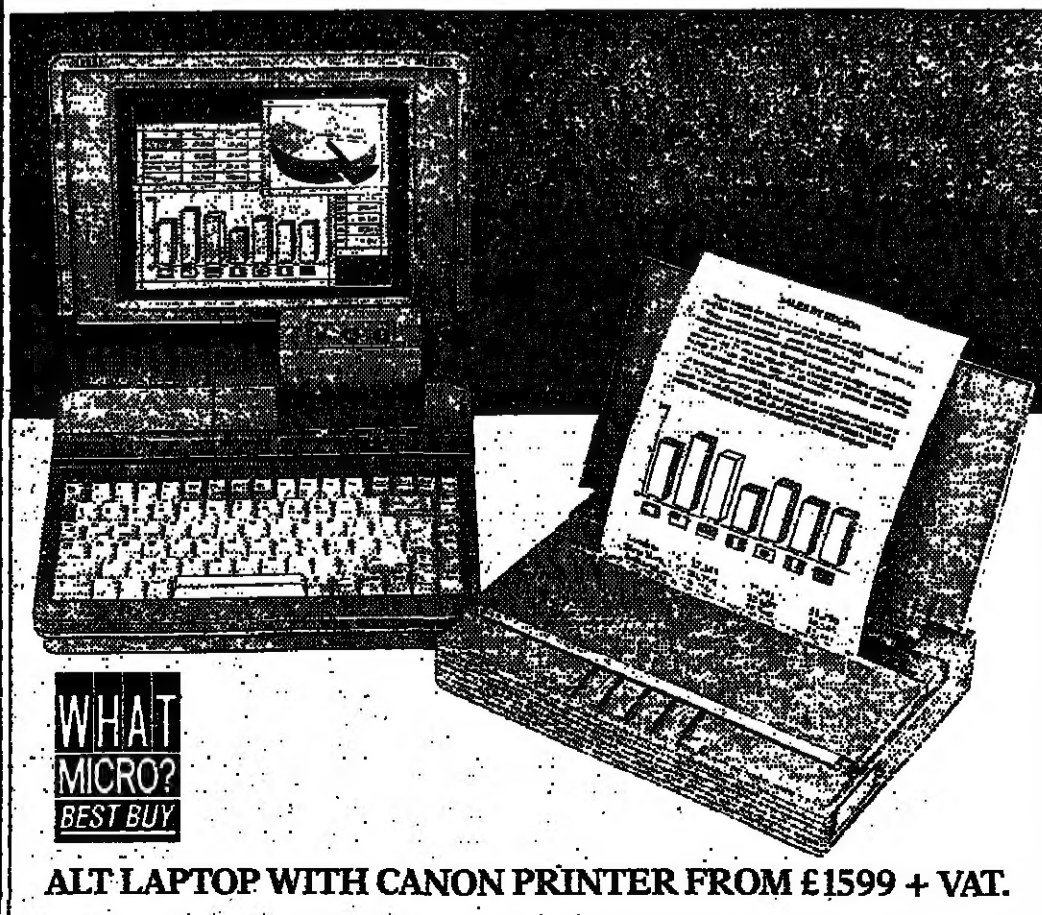
He said that such superstitions reach a peak, and when something alters slightly you realise you can go back down to a less obsessive level. "The T-shirt began to smell and you think well, can I wash it, dare I wash it? Eventually it was washed and I flew a successful mission and got back and thought, okay, we can come down a little now because I know I can wash the T-shirt. You build up to a crescendo."

He said all the preparations for a flight followed a set pattern. "If one day that routine gets broken and you realise it has been broken, then it plays on your mind until you go into the sortie proper. When you get back, there is a certain relief and you think ah well, that particular routine did not matter."

He said different people gave priority to a variety of things. For some it was a piece of clothing, for others it was always having the same meal before flying. "None of us came out here expecting we would all go home. You do everything in your power to make sure you are one that goes home. You work to the limits of your professional skills and you know you can be no better, then the lucky charms come in."

This report is subject to military censorship.

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Right royal effort: The Prince of Wales at Rolls-Royce near Bristol, Prince Edward with service families at RAF Uxbridge, and the Duchess of York with Claire Warren, whose husband Nigel is in the Gulf, and baby Carly

## Failures in the food industry make it top trade deficit culprit

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S food and drink trade gap widened by 9 per cent last year to reach £5.1 billion, replacing the motor vehicle sector as the biggest single contributor to the national current account deficit, according to figures released yesterday.

Food and drink accounted for nearly a third of the total trade deficit of £16.1 billion. Drink exports, led by Scotch whisky, performed well, rising by 17 per cent. But exports of food rose by no more than 2.5 per cent and imports are now two-and-a-half times the level of exports.

Paul Judge, chairman of Food from Britain, the agency set up in 1984 to boost sales of British produce, said that Britain was losing the competitive war with other European countries. "Britain's traditionally independent farmers are being out-marketed by the large European co-operatives," he said. "Despite some improvement, British manufacturers are still not deploying sufficient resources to capture a larger share of what will become a huge home market after 1992."

"Britain has excellent raw materials and technological capability, but both industry and government must show a greater commitment if this huge trade deficit is to be reduced for the benefit of farmers, manufacturers and the economy as a whole."

Germany, Denmark, The Netherlands, Ireland, Belgium and Luxembourg, which have no climatic advantage over Britain, accounted last year

for more than half the food and drink trade deficit. The Netherlands and Denmark, which have much smaller agricultural industries than Britain, had surpluses on their farm trade with Britain of £1.1 billion and £0.7 billion respectively.

More than half the food and drink deficit was in products that can be grown in Britain, such as meat, dairy products, vegetables and indigenous fruits, exports of which fell by £152 million, partly due to concern over the "mad cow" disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

The figures reinforce growing concern that Britain's farmers are failing to market their produce. Some experts believe that the relatively larger size and efficiency of British farms has impeded the formation of the powerful marketing co-operatives that are common on the Continent.

Safeway, the supermarket chain, earlier this week listed 70 items capable of being grown in Britain that it imports because British suppliers cannot provide the right quality, consistency or price. Sir Basil Feldman, the Safeway chairman, said that eight out of ten tomatoes and a similar proportion of apples sold in Britain were imported.

Tony Combes, Safeway's director of public affairs, said: "You can go to a supplier in Holland, say you want 10,000 cases tomorrow at 11am, and tomorrow at 11am 10,000 cases have arrived. The for-

eign suppliers are better able to meet the specifications."

Two thirds of the items imported by Safeway are from France, Germany and The Netherlands. They include cornflakes, flaked mashed potato, frozen sliced beans, fresh cauliflowers, ravioli and long-life cakes from France; Cox's apples, conference pears, lettuce, frozen carrots from The Netherlands; and frozen pizzas and Cox's apples from Germany.

Norman Lamont, the chancellor, is being urged to make a radical overhaul of motorist taxation to ease the effects of the recession on the car industry and increase sales of more environmentally friendly vehicles (Kevin Eason writes).

He is under pressure to scrap the £100 road tax disc in favour of adding up to 40p a gallon to the price of four-star petrol in his maiden Budget next month.

The Royal Automobile Club has predicted the move, which would be hailed by environmentalists as taxing the motorists who use most fuel and cause most pollution.

But business leaders say it would drastically increase the costs of companies with heavy use of cars, vans and lorries.

The motor industry wants the chancellor instead to scrap the 10 per cent Special Car Tax to spur sales, and also to consider restructuring the tax framework on company cars and offer greater incentives to buyers of diesel cars, which use less fuel and are more environmentally friendly.

## Royal family mobilises behind Gulf war

By ALAN HAMILTON

MEMBERS of the royal family flew a record four sorties in one day yesterday in support of Britain's war effort in the Gulf. Official briefers at Buckingham Palace denied, however, that the show of royal strength was a response to recent random missile attacks from the press.

The Prince of Wales, at his own request, met workers at the Rolls-Royce engine factory at Patchway, Bristol, which houses the main assembly line for the RB199 engine fitted to the Tornado, and also builds engines for the Harrier and Jaguar.

The Princess of Wales squeezed in a visit to Glasgow's Gulf crisis self-help

support group while on a long-arranged visit to the city, and a new royal weapon, Prince Edward, made his first Gulf-related visit — to service families at RAF Uxbridge, west London, headquarters of the Queen's Colour Squadron and the central band of the RAF.

The Duchess of York, who has been up with the frontline morale-boosters since early in the campaign, spent 90 minutes at Aldershot with the wives and children of soldiers serving with 27 and 33 Field Hospital, and 27 Regiment of the Royal Corps of Transport.

Goodwill bombardment continues today, although at a slightly reduced level.

Princess Margaret, whose initial foray into battle two weeks ago was frustrated by bad weather, makes a second attempt to visit RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire, while the Duchess of York will be at RAF Honington in Suffolk.

As always, the biggest guns are being used sparingly. The Queen herself will wait until March 15, when she is due to open the new Stansted airport, to visit RAF West Raynham in Norfolk, by which time the complexion of the war may be somewhat different.

Gulf reports, pages 2 and 3

## Taxi user's tip for the Treasury

By JOHN WINDER

IF THE new £5 and £10 notes are too similar in size there is a high risk of taxi drivers being over-tipped. An American experience has made Terence Higgins, chairman of the Treasury select committee of MPs, well aware of the danger.

He said at Westminster last night that on a visit to the US, the fact that the \$100 bill is the same size as the \$1 had cost him \$99. Mr Higgins gave his warning to the committee and witnesses from the Treasury, the Bank of England and the Royal Mint.

Malcolm Gill, chief cashier of the Bank of England, said that the new £10 note would be slightly smaller than the £20 and the designs would be different.

Diane Abbott, Labour member for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, had done some research among British cab drivers and found that they believed the notes were getting smaller as their value grew less.

Mr Gill cautiously observed that they had not changed the design for that reason, but accepted that "may have tended to happen, and since the old £5 note went there has clearly been a reduction."

He said the main reason for changing designs was to keep one step ahead of the counterfeiters, now equipped with colour photocopyers rather than printing sets in garden sheds.

## Extra police patrol stations in wake of Victoria bombing

By QUENTIN COWDREY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

EXTRA uniformed police have been deployed to patrol London's mainline railway stations in the wake of Monday's bomb attacks at Victoria and Paddington stations, it emerged yesterday.

The British Transport Police (BTP), which is primarily responsible for policing the railway network, has also decided that all litter bins at mainline stations in London should be sealed or removed to prevent the placing of bombs in them.

The extra officers have been drawn from the Metropolitan and City of London forces. Thirty City constables are now patrolling stations, together

with an unspecified number of Metropolitan officers.

A BTP spokesman said: "We decided, in view of the security situation, that there is a need for a greater uniformed presence. Fortunately, we have excellent liaison with the two other main London forces and have been able to draw on their reserves."

The spokesman dismissed criticism that the force had failed to record the bombers on a security camera video. Twenty-six security cameras are installed at Victoria station, but they were not operating early on Monday morning when the bomb went off, killing a man and injuring

38 other people in the worst IRA mainland atrocity against civilians since the 1983 Harrods bombing.

The spokesman said: "Security cameras were installed at Victoria a few years ago as part of the station's modernisation, but they were designed to be used selectively against pickpockets, prostitutes and drug dealers. They were never meant to provide 24-hour blanket cover."

Rail passengers yesterday continued to face disruption as police received a spate of hoax bomb warnings and reports of suspect packages.

Parts of London Underground were closed several times, and York railway station was shut for nearly two hours.

Scotland Yard said that many calls had been from well-meaning people, but that a large number had been malicious. The Yard received 101 hoax calls and more than 200 reports of suspect packages between midnight on Monday and midnight on Tuesday, many more than usual.

The man killed at Victoria, David Corner, aged 36, of Thornton Heath, south London, died instantly from a shrapnel wound, Westminster coroner's court was told yesterday. An inquest was opened and adjourned. Paul Knapman, the coroner, said: "I think I speak for everyone when I say that we hope the perpetrators of this outrage will be brought to justice."

## Unions reject penalty points for redundancy

COUNCIL workers in Liverpool could be made redundant according to a penalty points system, with strikers and those with a record of unauthorised absenteeism or disciplinary action taken against them suffering heavily (Ronald Faux writes).

Fat Archer-Jones, director of personnel and management services, has drawn up the scheme, which was angrily rejected by the town hall unions yesterday.

The Liverpool authority has announced that 600 of the council's 29,000 jobs must go

and the hope has been that the savings would be achieved by voluntary redundancy or by transferring staff to vacant jobs. If this failed, the points system could be used to decide who should be made redundant, although a council spokesman emphasised that the scheme had not been approved by the ruling Labour group on the council.

The joint trades unions committee yesterday threatened to strike if the scheme was even put before the council and demanded that it be withdrawn.

## Analysts sound alert on tank choice

By PETER DAVENPORT

FAILURE by the government to select Challenger II as the next generation tank for the army will result in Britain not being considered a potential prime contractor in any future European or Nato main battle tank programme, defence analysts said yesterday.

They said that a decision to buy from abroad would also put at risk up to 2,400 jobs, many missing out on valuable export orders, and cause the loss of tank design and production skills. Britain's international reputation in developing high-technology weapons would also be jeopardised.

The warning came in a report published yesterday by the Centre for Defence Economics at York University. The report, by Professor Keith Hartley, the centre's director, and Nick Hooper, a senior research fellow, was commissioned and funded by Vickers Defence Systems, which produced Challenger II, but it was carried out as an independent study.

The report was released the day after Alan Clark, the defence minister, announced another delay in the decision on a replacement for the army's Chieftain tank. The decision will not be made until after the war.

Challenger II is competing against the American Abrams M1A2, the German



Challenger II: jobs depend on government contract

Leopard and the French Leclerc tanks. It is understood that the government is eager to see how Challenger I and the Abrams tank, both on frontline duty in the Saudi desert, perform in battle conditions.

The decision to delay a decision again is causing concern to Vickers, which employs 1,500 people in Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne. A spokesman said yesterday: "We need an early endorsement in order to take advantage of exports and re-equipment opportunities."

He said that already one country had indicated that it would buy Challenger II, but only if it were selected for the British army.

Although the defence

ministry has not disclosed the size of the likely order for the Chieftain replacement, yesterday's report worked on the basis of 300 Challenger II tanks being acquired over five years. Such an order, the report said, would be worth £620 million but would provide turnover for British industry of £1 billion.

However, buying "off the shelf" from abroad would put at risk about 2,400 jobs and involve net import costs of more than £100 million a year. "Any decision not to purchase a UK main battle tank is likely to lead to the loss of some specialised industrial capabilities in which the UK has centres of excellence," Professor Hartley said yesterday.

terday that the study had not tried to evaluate Challenger II's qualities but had concentrated on the order's economic consequences. The order concerned not only Vickers Defence Systems but its 43 main suppliers, 34 of them based in Britain, many in areas of high unemployment. Challenger II forms 42 per cent of the turnover of supplying companies in Yorkshire and Humberside, the report noted, although the impact is much less elsewhere.

More than 700 Yorkshire miners were told yesterday their jobs would be lost in a year. British Coal said that by then it would no longer be possible to mine coal economically from the Allerton Bywater mine near Castleford, West Yorkshire (Tim Jones writes).

Next month, 370 South Wales miners will also lose their jobs when the Deep Navigation Colliery at Treham closes. The area will be left with four pits employing fewer than 2,000 men.

Union leaders at Allerton were told that the 116-year-old mine had lost £25 million in the past ten years and £4.9 million in the past 12 months. Alan Houghton, British Coal's group area director, said that the pit could close earlier if it did not sustain the short-term profit it had been making recently.

## Reuter threat

Reuter, the international news and finance agency, is facing a series of 24-hour strikes by 1,100 staff who claim that the management has "reneged" on a promise of pay rises in line with inflation. David Thompson, leader of the National Union of Journalists branch at Reuter, claimed the company had caused "a sense of outrage" among UK staff, who have had a 7 per cent settlement imposed on them.

Nurses' dispute

Disciplinary proceedings are expected to be taken against nurses who went on strike recently during a dispute at the Rampton and Ashworth high-security special hospitals. The Special Hospitals Authority is considering action against the nurses, who could be charged with endangering patients and face being struck off the register of state-registered and state-enrolled nurses.

## Canal suicide

An employee at the Marconi electronics centre in Addlestone, Surrey, who believed he would be prevented from capitalising on a secret invention by company rules, drowned himself in a canal, an inquest at Aldershot heard yesterday. Malcolm Puddy, aged 44, was discovered weighted down by a painter's trestle in a partially frozen canal. A verdict of suicide was recorded.

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# Police failure left potential murder weapon unchecked

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE killing of a wealthy businessman's wife went unsolved for eight years after police failed to check a potential murder weapon. Only a chance meeting between the victim's husband and Keith Rose, the man accused of her murder, enabled police to reopen the case and make an arrest, Exeter crown court was told yesterday.

In September 1981, Juliet Rose was shot six times with a .22 pistol at her home near Budleigh Salterton, Devon. The final two shots to her head and heart, fired at point-blank range, were the "calculated, brutal act of an executioner," Neil Butterfield, QC, for the prosecution, said.

Devon and Cornwall police carried out extensive enquiries but failed to find the killer or a motive. Then in 1989 Mr Rose, a company director, approached the dead woman's husband, Gerald Rose, in a public house. He allegedly tapped him on the shoulder and said: "I'm Keith Rose. Did you know that I was pulled on your wife's murder

because I belonged to a gun club?" Mr Butterfield said that it was an unusual approach to a man whose wife had been murdered. Mr Rose told the police and they interrogated and eventually charged Mr Rose, who has denied the killing.

Mr Butterfield said that Mr Rose, aged 41, of Coplestone, near Exeter, escaped detection four days after the killing when police checked all 22 pistols registered in Devon



Juliet Rose: shot in the head and heart.

and Cornwall. Because they regarded his Colt Woodsman as unsafe they returned it to him without having test-fired it. Mr Butterfield said that with hindsight that was regrettable, but at the time the murder weapon had not been identified. "There was nothing to connect Keith Rose with the killing. He did not feature as a police suspect."

Two months later, in November 1981, when the type of weapon was identified as a .22 Colt Woodsman, detectives failed to check Mr Rose's pistol although they examined 150 others across the county.

Mr Butterfield said that Mr Rose had called at Mrs Rose's home and tricked his way in by telling her that he was a telephone worker. "Precisely what happened in the minutes before Mrs Rose's death, only she and her killer can know. Precisely why the fatal shots were fired only the killer himself will know."

The court was told that Gerald Rose was a successful businessman who had built up a chain of 18 supermarkets and two bakery shops named after his wife. Mrs Rose, aged 42, lived a "contented, comfortable and essentially ordinary life" dedicated to her husband and their two sons.

On the day of her murder, Mr Rose's office received a call from a man who made an appointment for that afternoon but did not keep it. Mr Butterfield said that it was probably the killer ensuring that Mr Rose would not be at home. Shortly after 3pm an automatic alarm linked to Exmouth police station sounded. Within 12 minutes two officers were at Mrs Rose's house, where they found her body lying in the hall.

The case continues today.

## Cub scouts take on a new look for the 1990s

THE days when being a cub scout meant evenings in a church hall tying knots, and the occasional weekend on a Welsh mountain are over (William Cash writes). To make scouting relevant to the Nineties, a new cub scout programme was launched yesterday with the promise of making scouting more modern, adventurous and challenging.

Traditionalists may however be unimpressed by the new-fangled programme, which abandons bronze, silver

and gold badges in favour of such new awards as the Home Safety, Computer, World Friendship and World Faiths. Studying religions other than one's own is a key element of the new programme's "greater emphasis on community and spiritual matters", the Scout Association said.

The new programme, based on three years' research, comes amid the growing internationalisation of the movement, which has 16 million members in 160 countries.

## Father heard voice of son day after murder by IRA

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE father of a man interrogated and then shot dead by the IRA as a police informer spoke yesterday of how he heard a taped plea for mercy by his son the day after he was killed.

Patrick Fenton, speaking on the second day of the trial of Danny Morrison, the former national director of publicity for Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, said that he went to a Sinn Féin office in west Belfast the day after his son, Joseph, had been found shot dead.

Mr Fenton said that Sinn Féin officials produced a cassette tape that was played to him. On it he heard the voice of his son giving his name and address, apparently to IRA interrogators. "In the tape he gave a lot of information that during the period after 1981 he had carried explosives for the IRA," Mr Fenton told Belfast crown court.

Mr Fenton described how RUC special branch detectives had started to follow his son and had gradually built up a dossier on his activities. He said his son started a mortgage

lending business on the Falls Road and that special branch detectives had "let mortgages go through" in return for information. But when the information dried up, the business closed.

Mr Fenton said that his son also spoke on the tape about a car he had bought for the IRA which was used for carrying weapons across the border. At one point the car was followed and stopped by police and those inside arrested. This had led the IRA to the conclusion that he was an informer.

"The last part of the tape was Joseph asking for mercy to be shown and to be allowed to go home to his wife and kids," Mr Fenton told the court. "But as you know, this wasn't done. Joseph was shot."

Danny Morrison, aged 38, of Belfast, and six other defendants deny falsely imprisoning Joseph Lynch and of conspiring with others to murder him between January 4 and January 8 last year.

The Crown case is that Mr Morrison and his co-conspirators were interrogating Mr Lynch in a house in west Belfast, during which Mr Lynch also made a taped

confession, and that there were plans to shoot him on the basis that he was an informer. The Crown alleges that the same house had been used earlier in a similar interrogation of Joseph Fenton before he was shot.

During cross-examination police officers, who broke into the house at a 124 Carrigan Avenue, where Mr Lynch was allegedly being detained by the IRA, gave differing accounts of his state when they found him. Constable Ivan McKelvey, who kicked down the door and was first into the house, agreed with defence counsel that there was nothing unusual about Mr Lynch's demeanour to suggest that his circumstances were any different to the other people in the house.

But Sergeant Potter, a member of an RUC headquarters mobile support unit, who arrived minutes later and took Mr Lynch away to a police station, said: "He [Mr Lynch] was dishevelled, shaking. He wasn't wearing any shoes and seemed quite pale."

Mr Lynch, who has been in hiding since his rescue, is expected to take the witness stand on Monday.

## Saturday Review

### A tribesman from Surrey

Alan Franks hears the remarkable story of the Surrey man who was assimilated into the remote Samburu tribe

### New country, old glories

Germany's elite male society which dreams of pre-Hitler aristocratic glories

### MacCarthy on Simon Raven

Orgies? Social climbing? Fiona MacCarthy finds herself unshocked by Simon Raven's world

### Offer: choose your cruise

A choice of two superb cruises through southern France organised with Times readers in mind

## 14 years for attack on police

A BROTHER of Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Féin, was jailed for 14 years yesterday for his part in a gun attack on a police station in West Belfast (Edward Gorman writes).

Sean Patrick Adams, aged 32, was convicted with Anthony Gillen, both of Belfast, of attempting to wound a soldier and a policeman and possessing a rifle with intent. Jailing both for 14 years, Mr Justice Campbell told Adams and Gillen that the shooting, "like most terrorist attacks, was a cowardly one". Adams and Gillen were acquitted of attempting to murder a soldier and policeman in a police station guard post, although Mr Justice Campbell said he strongly suspected they had intended to do so.

During the trial last week Belfast crown court was told that the gun attack on New Barnsley RUC station in West Belfast had been carried out as part of more than 20 IRA diversionary operations to distract security forces during an attempted break-out by republicans from Crumlin Road jail in October 1989.

## Gun plot uncovered after raid

A PLOT by the Irish People's Liberation Organisation to buy guns on the Continent was discovered after the RUC raided a flat in West Belfast last week, the Northern Ireland High Court was told yesterday.

Among items found there, a Crown lawyer said, were 21 passport photographs, 80 false press cards and a National Union of Journalists ink stamp. The lawyer said that the flat owner, Patrick Guinness, aged 42, had made the passports and press cards for two IPLO men who went to Belgium to buy guns for the organisation.

They were confronted by police in Antwerp however and fled after firing a shot. Anthony Kerr was later extradited from Holland and sent to prison. Peter McNally was sentenced in his absence.

A lawyer for Guinness, of Distillery Walk, Belfast, said he would be contesting alleged admissions on the grounds that they were not voluntary. Guinness is accused of membership of the IPLO and possessing documents useful to terrorists.

## Campaign calls on smokers to packet in

By JOE JOSEPH

ESTHER Rantzen, who smoked but gave up, the health minister Virginia Bottomley, who never started, and Gary Lineker and Will Carling, sportsmen who both stopped after a few prepubescent puffs, joined forces yesterday to launch No Smoking Day, which will take place on March 10.

Under the slogan "Let's Packet In", which has been translated into several Asian languages, the campaign hopes to improve on last year when 50,000 smokers were persuaded to give up.

Smoking kills about 110,000 people in Britain each year, and Mrs Bottomley said that apart from the no smoking day, the government was sponsoring a £1 million campaign to stop pregnant women smoking. Only one in 12 pregnant smokers give up, she said.

Looking for a topical link, Dr Ronald Davis, director of the United States office on smoking and health, compared tobacco to Saddam Hussein, calling both a ruthless killer of Britons and Americans.

He said that the number of dangerous chemicals and gases in cigarettes was enough to make anyone sick. "It's like breathing a chemical factory into your lungs."

Gary Lineker, the English soccer captain, said: "I



Lineker: "Hardly any footballer in the professional game now smokes"

hardly know a footballer in the professional game now smokes.

"Any young person who wants to be a professional

sportsman should bear that in mind." He was backed by Will Carling, the England rugby union captain, who added: "I don't know any of

the English rugby team that smokes. So I would recommend not smoking to anyone who wants to be an amateur sportsman."

## Drink 'not evidence of reckless driving'

A MOTORIST involved in a fatal accident while over the legal alcohol limit had his conviction of reckless driving quashed by the High Court in London yesterday.

Two judges held that a drink-driver, even if obviously over the limit, is not automatically guilty of reckless driving in the absence of other evidence. Lord Justice Nolan and Mr Justice Roch allowed an appeal by Paul Hand against his conviction by magistrates at Fareham, Hampshire, in December 1989. His £250 fine was set aside.

The magistrates found that Mr Hand, of Porchester, Hampshire, had drunk between five and eight pints of lager. He was arrested while walking down a street for allegedly using obscene language and was released in the early hours.

While driving his car home, he was involved in a collision with a cyclist who died from his injuries. Mr Hand was arrested again and found to have a breath-alcohol count of 54 against a legal limit of 35.

The magistrates argued that a person who drank five to eight pints of lager and drove a car, even after five hours had passed, created an obvious risk of causing serious injury to other road users.

The judges ruled however that the fact of drink-driving by itself did not satisfy the law on reckless driving. Mr Hand's conviction of drink-driving, with a £200 fine and three-year disqualification, still stands.

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# Automatic jail sentence for police attacks rejected

By PETER MULLIGAN

AN ATTEMPT by a group of Conservative backbenchers to introduce a three-month mandatory prison sentence for anyone convicted of assaulting a police officer was rejected by the government in the Commons last night.

John Patten, Home Office minister of state, said that if the criminal justice system was working properly, the police would be getting exactly the sort of protection that everyone felt they should have. The courts had the powers and clear guidance from the Court of Appeal on sentencing.

In 1989 there were about 37,000 convictions for assaults causing actual bodily harm. Ten per cent of cases ended in prison sentences.

The problem was that the figures did not show how many of those cases were assaults on police officers. It would therefore not be right to proceed on inadequate information.

However, he undertook to carry out a six-month survey starting on June 1 to ascertain how many court cases involved assaults on the police and how many resulted in a prison sentence. "If we find the situation is not as we would want, we will have to take action", he said. He would report back to the House and publish the figures.

Michael Sheehy, the Tory MP for Uxbridge and parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation, had moved a new clause during the report stage of the Criminal Justice bill calling for the mandatory sentence in cases where actual bodily harm was caused.

He said that Parliament must show it would not tolerate those "who punch and kick, stab and slash police officers" or a situation "where women officers have their hair torn from their scalps and their breasts beaten by any person who thinks they can do so with impunity".

The police officer patrolling the down town areas of British towns and cities were at great risk, he said. So were those in country areas where, as almost single handed they dealt with drunken rowdies after closing time, they were frequently assaulted.

Robert Maclean, for the Liberal Democrats, opposed the new clause on the ground that people would resist arrest more fiercely if they knew a prison sentence was waiting.

"Persons stopped [by the police] would go to greater lengths to avoid being taken into custody and the risk of assault would be greater than it is at present." The clause would be counter-productive.

John Gressaway, Tory MP for Ryedale, cast doubt on the appropriateness of the clause. A former policeman, he described how he had been



Rifkind: Hoaxers are facing severe penalties

## £130m is saved on defence

THE government has saved an estimated £130 million on 40 defence projects worth a total of £13 billion under the new competitive culture for awarding large contracts, Sir Peter Levene, the outgoing chief of defence procurement, told MPs yesterday (Sheila Gunn writes).

The savings from the increase in competitive tendering and price-fixed contracts amounted to a cut of about 1 per cent in the original estimates of the projects over the past five years.

Appearing before the Commons public accounts committee, Sir Peter said that delivery times had also improved, with 28 of 37 of the largest defence contracts expected to be completed on time and only three likely to be delayed for more than a year. Nor would the delays add to the ministry's costs because they were on fixed-price contracts.

The report to the committee from the National Audit Office, the public spending watchdog, supports his evidence that the more commercial approach has led to better value for money in the £40 billion defence procurement budget over the past five years.

## NHS will grow by 4% next year

REAL growth in the national health service will amount to 4 to 5 per cent in the coming financial year, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, told MPs yesterday (Nicholas Wood writes).

Mr Waldegrave rejected suggestions from members of the cross-party Commons select committee on health that inflation and the impact of pay deals averaging 9 per cent would eat deeply into the £24.8 billion the government has allocated to the service for 1991-2.

MPs on the committee reminded Mr Waldegrave that the National Association of Health Authorities had estimated that health service prices would rise by 8.6 per cent in the next 12 months. But the health secretary said that that was an overestimate. Resources would be increased by 12.7 per cent and he was expecting real growth of 4 to 5 per cent rather than the 3 per cent suggested by the MPs.

However, the health secretary did concede that the slump in land sales was causing "sharp problems" for health authorities. Work would continue on hospitals already under construction, but there would not be many new projects started.

The property slump, which has reduced the money available to health authorities from selling surplus sites, produced some of the sharpest exchanges between committee members and the health secretary, who was making his first appearance before them. Nicholas Winter, the Tory chairman, said that services to patients would be put at risk if authorities switched funds from revenue to capital accounts to keep building projects in being.

Mr Waldegrave replied that sometimes such transfers led to quicker treatment for patients by enabling managers to speed the opening of units.

## Random breath test undermined

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

FIGURES produced yesterday in a parliamentary answer to Peter Bottomley, the former junior transport minister who led the campaign against drink-driving for three years, appeared to counter the case for random breath tests being pressed by an increasing number of MPs.

The Labour party is backing the introduction of random breath tests and the all-party parliamentary advisory council for transport safety has proposed amendments to the Road Traffic bill for random tests.

However, Mr Bottomley, who is not supporting the campaign, was told yesterday by Christopher Chope, minister for roads and traffic, that after the introduction of random breath tests in New South Wales, Australia, in 1982 the fall in the proportion of deaths among drivers who were over the limit was only 3 per cent. In Britain over the same period (1983-6) without random breath tests such deaths showed a fall of 9 per cent. Mr Bottomley said last night that the figures showed that campaigners were trying to bring about something that would not be as effective as the measures already in place and that would involve a huge

## Bomb hoaxers risking passengers' lives

By JOHN WINDER AND ROBERT MORGAN

BOMB hoaxers who have disrupted rail services for the past few days, particularly in London, were accused yesterday of putting lives at risk and warned that they face severe penalties.

In a Commons statement, Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, said: "Those who make such hoax calls are acting in a criminal fashion. They are risking innocent people's lives and they will be liable to receive very severe punishment if they are identified and prosecuted."

He told MPs that since the IRA's bombing of Victoria station on Monday, when one man was killed, British Transport police had dealt with about 85 hoax bomb threats and 55 suspect packages.

He appealed to the travelling public for continuing vigilance no matter how much disruption might result from a false alarm. Responding to questions, he said that the government would look sympathetically at requests for extra funds for security.

John Prescott, Labour

### TRANSPORT

transport spokesman, blamed much of the disruption of the past few days on lack of investment.

Labour MPs protested as Mr Rifkind dismissed Mr Prescott's critical remarks as sad and pathetic.

Responding to an Opposition call for a statement, Mr Rifkind said that London Underground had launched an inquiry into the incident on the Central Line in east London on Tuesday when several trains were stranded in a tunnel and the engine of one emitted smoke. Hundreds of passengers had to walk along the lines to safety.

Mr Prescott said that the events of the two days had not entirely been due to the IRA or the hoaxes. Some of the transport incidents could be attributed to inadequate equipment and its failure and to inadequacy of staff which had been reduced by thousands, impairing their ability to maintain security and deal with emergencies.

Those staff cuts were, at the government's request, to continue. He demanded a review of the financial framework of British Rail and the Underground. He told Mr Rifkind to end his obsession with privatisation and the miserable experiment of trying to run the capital's transport system without subsidies.

Mr Rifkind: "It was predictable that he should seek to use the events of the last couple of days caused by terrorist incidents, bomb hoaxes and other security matters, to make his rival attacks on British Rail investment."

In the past Mr Prescott had suggested that British Transport police had been reduced in number, but there were more police officers on British Rail and London Underground now than in 1982.

Steven Norris (Epping Forest, C) said that Tuesday's events were by no means unique. Hardly a day went by without disruption. He suggested that Mr Rifkind should talk to London Underground management about their procedures for dealing with incidents, including hoaxes so

that disruption was kept to a minimum.

Philip Goodhart (Berkhamstead, C) suggested calling in the army to provide guards at London mainline terminals until the bombers were caught. The army, he said, provided extra guards at Heathrow and rail commuters deserved as much protection as air passengers.

Mr Rifkind said that he would want to take the advice of the chief constable of the British Transport police, but he would draw his attention to the remarks.

Ian Taylor (Essex, C) said that, despite investment of £1 billion, British Rail still could not do the simple things correctly. They failed to communicate with travellers or arrange for the smooth change from trains to buses and Underground when journeys were interrupted.

Mr Rifkind said that British Rail would be giving considerable attention to the need to improve the present unsatisfactory level of information provided.

Mildred Gordon (Poplar and Bow, Lab) said that with modern communications it should not have been difficult to inform passengers about what had happened in the east London incident so that they were not left in the dark and increasing heat for many hours.

Mr Rifkind said that she was right to express that concern. But once the current had been switched off, passengers had to be taken more than a mile to the nearest station. That inevitably caused considerable problems as well as fatigue, particularly for elderly passengers.

David Evans (Welwyn Hatfield, C) said that thousands of his constituents had been inconvenienced not just over the past two or three weeks, but for the past two or three years and they were not prepared to put with it any longer. "Is it not time that the management of British Rail and London Underground were sacked?"

Mr Rifkind, while sympathising with travellers, said that the chairman of both organisations had only recently taken up their posts.

## Review 'starting at wrong end'

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

### POLL TAX

ONE of the leading backbench Conservative experts on local government warned ministers yesterday that its review of local government was in danger of running off the rails.

David Wilshire, vice-chairman of the backbench Tory environment committee, said that he was full of unease about the direction of the review chaired by the prime minister.

Mr Wilshire's comments came in the wake of the disclosure that Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is pressing his cabinet colleagues to replace the poll tax with a property tax adjusted for the number of people living in a property.

The Spelthorne MP, a former council leader in Avon, said he believed that ministers were putting the cart before the horse. Instead of starting with the financing of town halls, the government ought to determine first the best structure for councils, what services they should deliver and what form local democracy should take. Only then should ministers turn their minds to ways of paying for the system.

Mr Wilshire said that Mr Heseltine had been right to start by seeking bipartisan agreement about the future of local government and by introducing temporary palliatives, such as more generous transitional relief, to deal with the most unpopular features of the poll tax. However, he was concerned about the next step, which appeared to be a lurch into the area of finance.

"We are starting at the end and not the beginning. Finance comes last and it appears to be coming first. If we do go down this track, we will repeat the mistakes of the last 30 years. We have to start with boundaries, then we have to deal with services, then with local democracy and only then ask how you finance it."

## Six more NHS trusts hopefuls

A further six hospitals and national health service units have been given permission to become NHS trusts, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, announced in a Commons written reply. That means that 129 units have been invited formally to apply to become self-governing trusts under the government's health service reform programme.

The six are: West Berkshire Health Services, Ealing Acute Hospital, York Health Services, Lancaster Acute Hospital Services, Lancaster Priority Services, and Bath and Wiltshire Community Services.

### Fire rules

The government promised yesterday to fight proposals by the European Commission which, it claims, will lower the fire safety regulations covering furniture. Edward Leigh, the junior minister, told MPs that British regulations were good and said that the number of fire deaths had fallen since their introduction.

### Debt to UK

Developing countries owe the United Kingdom government about £7.3 billion, John Maples, Treasury economic secretary, said in a Commons written reply. In 1989-90, Britain received about £150 million in interest charges from developing countries.

### New peer

Professor Brian Griffiths was introduced in the Lords as Lord Griffiths of Forestfach. He is chairman of the Centre for Policy Studies and was economic adviser to Margaret Thatcher.

### Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Agriculture, fisheries and food; prime minister. Debate on the Gulf war on an SNP motion. Lords (3): Planning and Compensation bill, report, second day.

## Job seekers should be shown files

By SHEILA GUNN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOB candidates should have the right to see confidential files supplied by a vetting agency such as the Economic League if they are rejected as potential subversives, the Commons employment committee said yesterday.

Agencies holding blacklists of political and trade union activists should also be controlled by a new licensing law and a code of practice.

The committee questioned the Economic League, which has been accused of holding inaccurate information, about its manual files on alleged subversives. But the Conservative MPs, who hold a majority, objected to the league's being singled out for criticism in the report, *Recruitment Practices*. Although the league told the committee that other agencies provided a similar service to employers, it failed to produce details.

The report states: "We believe that the recommendations we have made would go some way to lessening the dis-

advantages faced by those who apply for jobs at companies using the services of organisations who provide information about them."

The committee also asked for application forms requiring candidates to give details of criminal convictions to find out if the convictions were for short sentences or minor penalties that are "spent" under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. Five million people in the United Kingdom have a criminal record and the committee was worried that not enough job candidates or employers know about the Act. The MPs want information about its operation to be included in the *Wiping the Slate Clean* document handed to former offenders on release from prison.

The committee also found that employers who recruit more than seven million workers a year used varied methods that sometimes led to unintentional discrimination. Although the MPs did not support tougher anti-discrimination laws, as proposed by Labour, they have asked the government to act more quickly on recommendations from the Equal Opportunities Commission and Commission for Racial Equality.

"In view of the signs of a decrease in the effect of discrimination on employment levels of disadvantaged groups, we recognise that there is a case for reliance on persuading employers that equal opportunity policies are in their own interests and on spreading good practice."

The report added: "We are however disappointed that the government appears to take so long to consider proposals from the two bodies which have, by law, the specific task of reviewing anti-discrimination legislation."

House of Commons employment committee second report: *Recruitment Practices* (Stationery Office, £5.15).

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# Clarke sets out new targets for careers education in schools

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke, the education secretary, yesterday called for improvements in careers education in schools, suggesting four basic entitlements for every pupil.

The proposals, made in a speech on further education, are Mr Clarke's first on a topic to which he attaches great importance. The minister said that the best careers and placement services ran well, and that the rest needed to rise to that standard.

Between the ages of five and 16, Mr Clarke said, pupils should receive general education about careers and the world of work; there should be opportunities for discussions with a careers specialist at 14 and 16; the interviews, linked to records of achievement, should result in an action plan; and there should be unbiased guidance about provision in schools and colleges, as well as the career paths available locally.

Mr Clarke urged schools to work with the careers service to meet the four objectives, bringing in local authorities and training and enterprise councils where necessary. He

also favoured publication of career destinations of those leaving school or college at 16, 17 or 18. Regulations requiring schools to publish examination results in a standard format will be published shortly, Mr Clarke said. Similar requirements will follow for further education colleges.

Mr Clarke, in an address to the annual conference in London of the Association of Colleges in Further and Higher Education, emphasised the value of vocational courses as a route to higher education. The level of course, rather than whether it is academic or vocational, should be the yardstick for entry to degrees.

He said that ministers were determined to maintain the integrity of A-levels and vocational qualifications as separate routes to higher education. "They must develop in parallel to be of use to the widest possible range of students," he said. "We need to make the general public and employers, higher education institutions and young people in particular, familiar with them."

Some courses approved by

as National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) remained too narrow, Mr Clarke said. "We need more broad-based NVQs, for young people especially," he said. "I also want to see ways of making assessment more practicable for full-time students in FE and schools."

Universities, polytechnics and colleges of higher education will have £35 million of their budgets held back until they reach pay settlements satisfactory to the government, Mr Clarke said yesterday in a Commons reply.

Mr Clarke wants the two higher education funding councils to prove that this year's pay deals add flexibility, and reward performance and productivity. There will also have to be evidence that agreements on staff appraisal are being implemented.

Universities will have £22 million withheld, and polytechnics and colleges £13 million. Similar amounts were held back pending satisfactory pay settlements last year. The £12 million withheld from polytechnics then was released only last month.



A site officer displaying a miner's shovel uncovered at the 1450 mine workings in Leicestershire

## Discovery challenges pit history

MEDIEVAL coal workings found in Leicestershire will lead to a rewriting of mining history. They show that sophisticated methods were used in 1450, at least 100 years earlier than previously thought (Craig Seton writes).

The remains of 100ft shafts, coal-cutting galleries and oak pit props show evidence of the oldest accurately dated deep mines to be uncovered in England. They have been found at a British Coal open-cast site at Colcorton, near Ashby de la Zouch.

Archaeologists say that the finds contradict an assumption that the arrival of German miners in the 16th century revolutionised mining in England. Tree-ring dating of the pit props by Nottingham university showed that they were made from timber felled as early as 1450. Two wooden shovels, coal baskets, jointed timber frames to support the shafts, and a leather boot have also been found.

The discovery was made after aerial photographs showed dozens of medieval earthworks around the site. Fred Hartley, the Leicestershire museum service's archaeological survey officer, said yesterday: "There must have been professional, full-time miners working here in the 15th century. It bears the hallmarks of being a sophisticated industry."

## Appeal could end legal chaos over rape in marriage

The law on whether a husband can legally rape his wife is in disarray. Tomorrow's test case before the Court of Appeal could reshape legal rulings, Frances Gibb writes

CAN a man be guilty of raping his wife? Until recently the answer was clearly no. For more than 200 years, husbands have been immune from any prosecution for rape of their wives.

In recent months, however, courts have started to re-examine the law. But the spate of prosecutions where husbands have been charged with raping their wives have brought conflicting rulings, with three High Court judges reaching startlingly different conclusions.

The issue is also splitting lawyers. Professor Glanville Williams, writing this week in the *New Law Journal*, says: "A charge of rape is too powerful... a weapon to put into the wife's hands." A more appropriate offence, he argues, would be assault, dealt with summarily. "We are speaking of a biological activity, strongly baited by nature, which is regularly and pleasurably performed on a consensual basis."

Occasionally a husband continues to exercise what he regards as his right when his wife refuses him, "the refusal most probably resulting from the fact that the pair have had a tiff".

Professor Williams concludes that what is wrong with the husband's demand is not so much the act requested but its timing or the manner of the demand. "The fearsome stigma of rape is too great a punishment for husbands who use their strength in these circumstances," he says.

Last autumn, however, the Law Commission, the government's law reform body, came to the opposite conclusion: rape, it said in a working paper, should be an offence even when couples are living together. The immunity enjoyed by husbands since at least 1736 should be swept away.

Tomorrow the judges of the Court of Appeal have a chance to review the state of the law. The appeal arises from the conviction in Leicester crown court last July of a man aged 37 for raping his wife. It was the first case in England and Wales in which a husband was accused of rape where there was no legal separation or court order prohibiting him from molesting her.

The present law has its origins in a statement by Lord Chief Justice Hale, who wrote in 1736 that a wife had "by mutual matrimonial consent and contract" given up herself "in this kind unto her husband which she cannot retract". That declaration stood untested until a case in 1949, more than 200 years later.

The case confirmed Hale's view but said that there were exceptions to this statute law, namely where there were court orders between the couple such as

decrees nisi, judicial separation, or non-molestation. The question in the Leicester case was whether the wife's consent to sexual intercourse can be revoked, not only by a court order or mutual consent, but also by a unilateral withdrawal from cohabitation. Mr Justice Owen held that it could, creating a new exception to the husband's immunity from rape.

Then came a second case, last September, at Sheffield, before Mr Justice Simon Brown, who argued that the husband's common law immunity from rape charges should be ended altogether. The husband was later acquitted.

In a third case, however, Mr Justice Roper, in Middlesbrough, looked at the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976 which defined rape as "unlawful sexual intercourse without consent". He argued that not only did parliament define rape, it crystallised the common law exceptions to the husband's immunity, and it was not open to the judges in the courts to create



Brown: husbands should be subject to rape charges further common law exceptions to the statute and extend the scope of the immunity.

The Court of Appeal now has the chance to review the state of the law and make the first authoritative and binding ruling since Hale. Any ruling will have a significant impact on the Law Commission's final report. It could even make redundant action by parliament on the key issue of whether husbands can rape wives, although there may still be a need for legislation on issues such as whether the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions is needed for a prosecution.

Above all, it could open the floodgates to a new category of prosecution. Some eight cases are already pending, awaiting the Court of Appeal ruling. Research by Granada's *World in Action* television programme has shown that one in seven married or divorced women claims to have been raped by her husband: a figure of 1.37 million nationally. Marital rape could become a burgeoning new category of crime.

## Healthy water to cost more

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

NEW technologies to take pesticides out of drinking water are likely to cost the country millions of pounds, could lead to higher bills and may be as hazardous as the chemicals they are designed to remove, according to a water company chief.

Peter McIntosh, director of water and environmental science at Thames Water and former head of the environment department's water quality division, said yesterday that water companies were planning to invest millions of pounds on new activated granulated carbon (AGC) filtration and ozone treatment systems in an attempt to meet strict European Community drinking water standards.

Other technologies being examined included hydrogen peroxide and bacterial treatments. "Chlorination of water can lead to potentially undesirable products," Mr McIntosh told a conference in London on pesticides and weed control.

"We are now grappling with the question of whether AGC, ozone and hydrogen peroxide create problems. We are forever chasing our tails," he added.

## Divorce in only 18 days

THE quickest "quickie" divorce in recent history is expected next Monday when a couple are granted a decree absolute after 18 days (Frances Gibb writes).

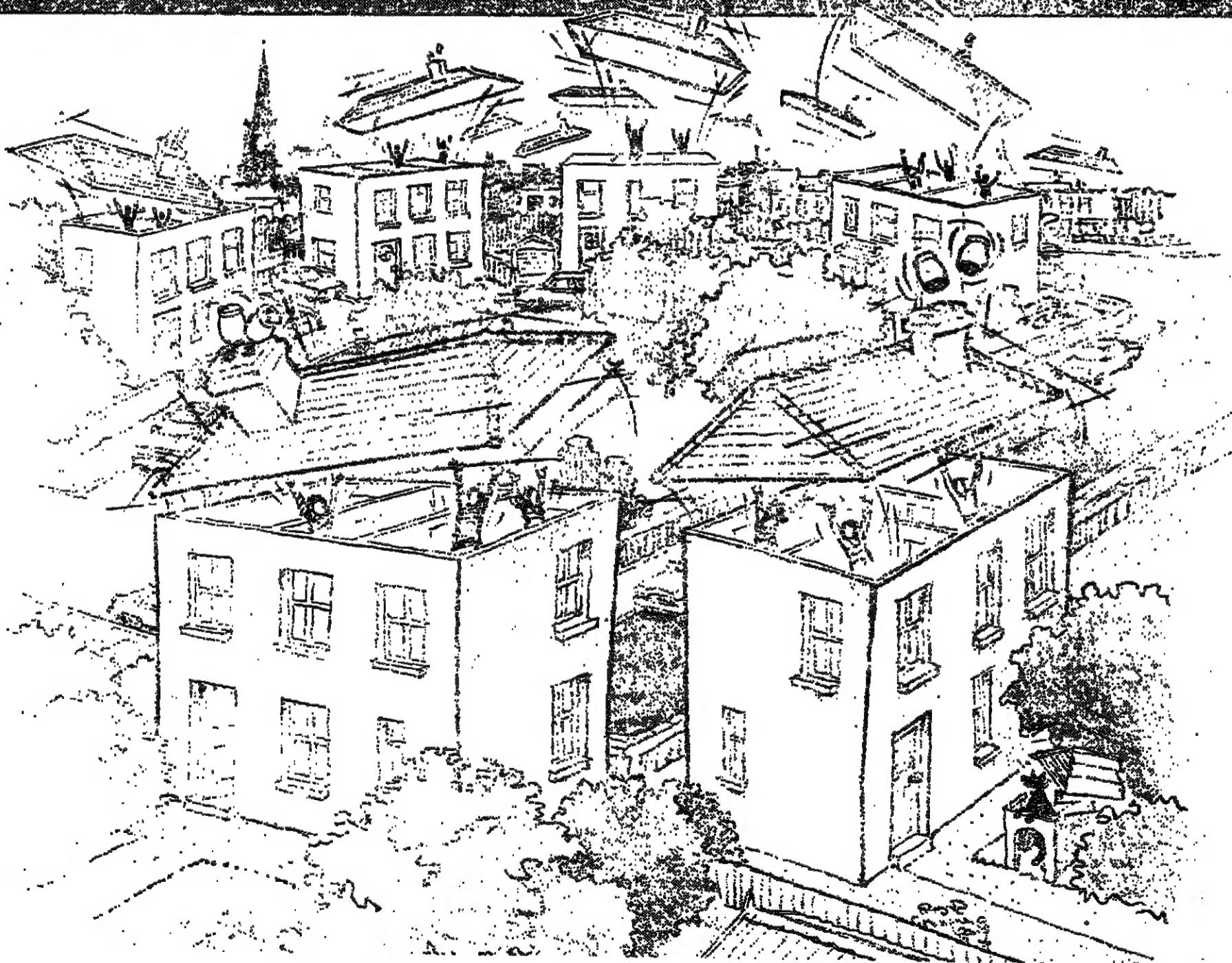
Even a so-called "quickie" divorce usually takes four to six months. In the case of the Morgans, Peter Singer, QC, the deputy High Court judge, threw formalities to the winds. The couple, who had originally agreed to obtain a divorce by living apart for two years, went before Mr Singer on February 7.

The wife was seeking leave to take the children abroad. She was seven months pregnant by the man she lives with and asked if the divorce proceedings could also be dealt with there and then. She wanted to go abroad while she still could before the birth on May 1.

Mr Morgan agreed to petition for divorce on the basis of his wife's adultery. Her partner, who was present, agreed to confirm the adultery and there was an "old-style" divorce hearing. The judge scrapped the usual three to four months between the hearing and the decree nisi, and agreed that the decree absolute, which usually takes another six weeks, could be applied for on February 25.

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# Think-tank accuses Charity Commission of political bias

By PAUL WILKINSON

A FREE-market think-tank has accused the Charity Commission of being politically biased because it has taken too long to complete an investigation of Oxfam.

In a report published today, the International Freedom Foundation says that the slowness of the commission's enquiry into the alleged political activities of the Third World charity contrast with "the speed at which charitable status was denied to the Thatcher Foundation".

The commission, however, rejected the criticism. It said yesterday that the ten months it had spent on the Oxfam enquiry was not exceptional, and that the Thatcher Foundation had not been refused charity status. "The application is simply on hold while the foundation's trustees comply with a request for further information, which is quite normal in these cases. No final decision has been made."

The IFF report says that the commission opened its Oxfam enquiry in April last year after the charity began a campaign

supporting sanctions against South Africa, and that it still has some months to run. The Thatcher Foundation made its application for charitable status, which brings handsome benefits, particularly income tax concessions, shortly after Mrs Thatcher resigned in November. The report adds: "It all leads to the suspicion that the commission is at best in need of a radical shake-up of its structures and at worst is politically biased itself."

The commission said that the Oxfam enquiry was not a particularly long one. Some took more than two years. "It is by its very nature time-consuming in the clearing and evaluation of a large quantity of information. It is essential that the commissioners possess all the relevant information before making a decision, otherwise they run the risk of the decision being ill-judged."

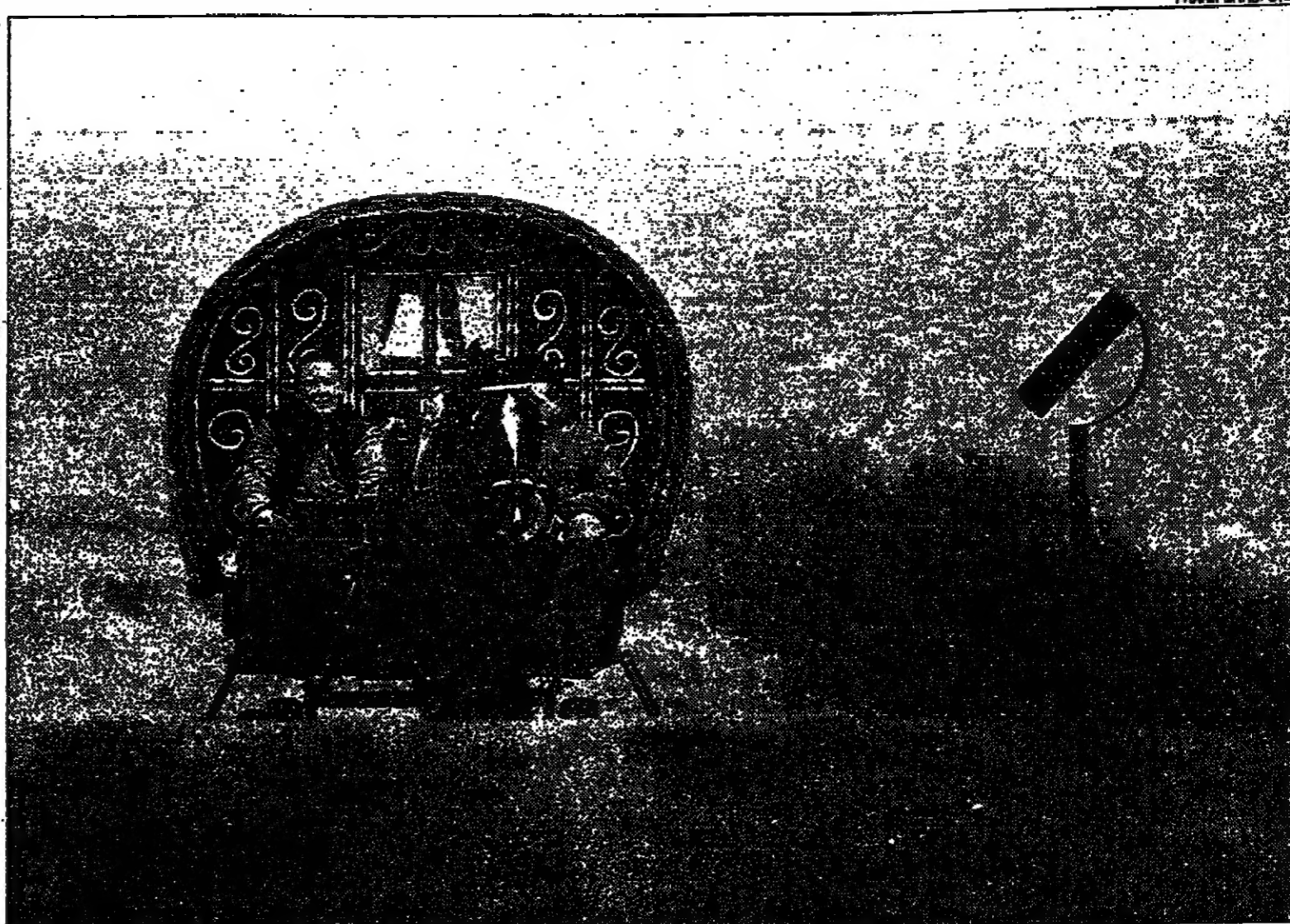
Political activity by a charity could breach its status and the commission issues a guide to what might constitute a transgression, but it accepts that it is not possible to lay

down "hard and fast" rules. "We try to avoid too much adherence to red tape as it gets in the way of what the charity is about, getting aid to the right place with as little hindrance as possible."

In 1989 there were 170,000 registered charities in England and Wales. The commission sees its duty as ensuring that trustees administer a charity's funds in the manner intended by the donor. Removal of charitable status is a last resort. Usually the trustees are removed or forced to comply with the original aim of the charity's founders.

Formal enquiries are usually carried out by a senior member of the commission's staff and the results are put before the six commissioners, who make a decision.

Charitable status has never been defined in law but the commission works to a 1891 High Court judgment in which a charity was described as a trust for the relief of poverty, the advancement of education or religion or purposes beneficial to the community.



Leisurely journey: Len Young and his horsedrawn gypsy caravan reach the end of the open road and head for the village of Ruthwell, near Dumfries, Scotland

## Findings on violence and porn challenged

By ROBIN OAKLEY  
POLITICAL EDITOR

A HOME OFFICE report that found no causal links between pornography and sexual violence was challenged yesterday by a group of academics and workers in the fields of child abuse, women's rights and sex crime.

Dr Catherine Izzi, a research fellow in sociology at Essex university, told a Commons press conference: "I could not make head or tail of the Home Office report." She said that the United States, Canadian and Australian governments had accepted the negative effects of pornography and their courts had accepted evidence of pornography-related violence.

Dawn Primarolo, Labour MP for Bristol South, who has presented a Commons bill that would restrict the sale of pornographic magazines and videos to licensed outlets, said that the report by Dr Guy Cumberbatch and Dr Dennis Howitt had been "highly selective" and had overlooked important research.

Campaigners from a variety of groups demanded further studies into the use of pornography by sexual offenders, its role in child sexual abuse and its effect on attitudes and behaviour.

They called for obscenity laws to be replaced with legislation against pornography which defined it in terms of "what it is and what it does".

The campaigners complained that the report had accepted a decline in the seizure of obscene publications as evidence of a decline in pornography.

The representatives attributed fewer seizures to decreased efforts by police who were frustrated by the failure of courts to convict.

## Meningitis vaccination drive after boy's death

By THOMSON PRENTICE  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 900 pupils and teachers at an Exeter school have been immunised against meningitis after a fellow pupil died and four others were admitted to hospital with the disease.

Roger Spray, aged 15, of Heavitree, Exeter, died in the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital on Tuesday night. Two girls from the school, St Peter's Church of England High School, are in intensive care, another pupil has been detained and the fourth has been allowed home.

All pupils and teachers have been given meningitis vaccinations and antibiotics. Throat swabs taken from them are being analysed by health laboratory staff to find how many are carrying the bacteria that causes the disease.

The school was closed for half-term during the immunisation and screening, and a decision on whether it will reopen on schedule next week will be based on the laboratory results, expected tomorrow.

The bacteria causing the type of meningococcal meningitis that affected the pupils are carried in the nose and throat of about one person in ten, and are spread by coughs and sneezes. Young children and adolescents are most vulnerable to the disease, which strikes rapidly. If the bacteria enter the blood stream, they can cause inflammation of the meninges, membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Early treatment with antibiotics is highly effective. About 200 children in Britain have died of the disease in the past ten years.

A new meningitis vaccine being tested will, if results are satisfactory, be introduced as part of routine immunisation in October of next year.

## Damages for MP

Kenneth Warren, Tory MP for Hastings and Rye, won substantial libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations in a newspaper of links with a telephone marketing company accused of sinister "mind games" practices.

Mr Warren, aged 64, is a director of Programmes Ltd, which with its sister company Programmes Training Ltd, also received undisclosed damages. The claims were made in February last year in the now defunct *Sunday Correspondent*, which has apologised to Mr Warren and agreed damages.

### Benefit arrests

Sixteen people were arrested yesterday in a series of dawn raids on homes in Liverpool after a six-month enquiry by police into alleged bogus social security benefit claims.

### Pesticide fine

William Lowe, aged 64, of Wistow, Warwickshire, was yesterday fined a total of £1,000 for causing pesticides from his farm to leak into a pool on the Belfry golf course near Birmingham, killing 144 fish. Sutton Coldfield magistrates also ordered Lowe to pay £276 compensation.

### Turning on heat

Hundreds of palm trees have been planted in the Cornish seaside towns of St Ives, Lelant and Penzance to make holidaymakers believe that temperatures are warmer than they actually are.

### Cattle approval

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, has approved plans for a £100 million cattle market alongside the M1 at Crick, Northamptonshire.

### Husband held

Detectives were yesterday questioning Robert Miles, of St George, Bristol, after a post mortem examination showed that his wife Heidi, aged 21, died from severe head injuries and not from burns and smoke inhalation after a fire at their home.

### Move to CID

Surinder Singh, aged 34, the Asian police officer who won his fight to prove he was barred from joining the CID because of his colour, is to become a detective on Monday, based in Nottingham.

### Estate millions

A total of £19 million has been approved for improvements to the Castlemilk housing estate in Glasgow and West Hailes estate, Edinburgh, on condition that private finance and local people are involved.

### Found hanged

A construction worker, aged 27, was found hanged in woods yesterday after he disappeared from work at a quarry site at Maidstone, Kent.

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# Slovenian veto on federal law heralds break-up of Yugoslavia



Kucan wants talks now to dissolve federation

SLOVENIA voted yesterday to give local laws precedence over federal legislation, taking the first formal step towards independence. The Slovene parliament also defied federal warnings and threatening noises from the Yugoslav army to propose an 11-point plan to split Yugoslavia.

At a session in the regional capital, Ljubljana, the Slovene parliament voted to amend the republic's constitution, invalidating Yugoslav laws in Slovenia and laying the basis for creating a fully independent monetary system.

The proposal to break up Yugoslavia will widen the rift with the federal authorities in Belgrade. Slovenia has been threatening to secede unless it is given more independence since ending 45 years of communist rule in free elections last April.

"We are proceeding from the fact that Yugoslavia has disintegrated politically and economically as a

joint federative state," Milan Kucan, the Slovenian president, told the parliament. "We propose that negotiations for the dissolution of the current Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia begin immediately," he said.

But the Slovene move still does not amount to a formal secession. The vote yesterday helped prepare the legal grounds for a formal break with Yugoslavia, a federation of six republics created in 1918 after the first world war.

The Slovene plan will be now presented to the other five Yugoslav republics during talks on the future shape of the country. But the vote has further complicated Yugoslavia's chaotic situation and seems to render any future accord still more unlikely. A Zagreb weekly magazine said that, as from yesterday, Yugoslavia had ceased to exist in the form established since the war.

Talks on the future shape of the

Ljubljana has defied Belgrade by endorsing proposals to sever legal links with the other Yugoslav republics, Dossa Trevisan writes

country are certain to fail since Serbia has rejected any suggestion of Yugoslavia being founded on a new confederal structure of a loose association of full sovereign states.

The army, too, continues to cling to its former, privileged position and is indulging in sabre-rattling to pressure independent-minded republics, especially in Croatia, where it has accused the leadership of planning an armed mutiny. The army prosecutor in Croatia has repeated demands for the arrest of the republic's defence minister, Martin Spegej, a former general. In the federal parliament, the deputy federal defence minister, Admiral Stane Brovet, has accused Croatian

authorities of whipping up hostilities against the armed forces and of failing to hand over Mr Spegej.

Despite the vote, Mr Kucan has taken pains to emphasise that Slovenia is not closing the door to negotiations with the rest of Yugoslavia. Talks between the leaders of the six republics and the eight-man state presidency are to resume tomorrow in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia.

Mr Kucan, however, admitted before the vote yesterday, that the move being taken was to endorse steps towards the dissolution of Yugoslavia's federal system. He said the federal system, which emerged from the war and as a

result of an accord between Yugoslavia's constituent republics, no longer safeguarded the rights of the republics, Slovenia's proposal, he said, was therefore to annul it.

Should other republics wish to go along with Slovenia, they could strike an alliance of sovereign states, and while the negotiations proceed, the federal government could act as a moderator.

Ante Markovic, the prime minister of Yugoslavia, whose government is under attack from all sides and is trying to hold the country together, condemned Yugoslavia's local politicians. He said that they only cared about sabre-rattling, anarchy and inflation in order to cover up their own failings.

Slovenia's secession seems to have been taken for granted, at least by the headline leader of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic. Mr Kucan, however, struck a note of apprehension when he met the press yesterday by saying that the

army still remained a threat. He accused the military establishment of harbouring ambitions to be the arbiter in shaping Yugoslavia's future. "The army has the potential force to impose its decision even if people do not accept it," Mr Kucan said.

Serbia's present communist regime relies heavily on the military and it has shown no inclination to concede on the issue of federation or confederation. It has insisted that Serbia would claim territories if Yugoslavia were split into sovereign confederal states.

Emotions between Serbia and Croatia have been whipped up recently to the extent that old suspicions and animosities have erupted and spread across the two republics, and they are now manifested as bitterly as ever. In the current atmosphere of recrimination, it is hard to see how the two peoples can live together peacefully again.

## Kremlin unleashes vitriolic campaign to vilify Yeltsin

FROM MARY DREIVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday deployed some of the heaviest guns in his propaganda arsenal to head off Boris Yeltsin's televised call for his resignation. The agenda of the Soviet parliament was turned upside down to accommodate speaker after indignant speaker, who rushed forward to accuse the president of the Russian Federation of everything from "poor taste" to "inciting civil war".

A special committee was set up to marshal the vitriolic diatribes into a formal protest and by the end of the day parliament had approved a resolution accusing Mr Yeltsin of acting unconstitutionally, and calling on Russian and Soviet state and elected bodies to "consolidate their position" to prevent further aggravation of the situation. While the resolution was milder than many expected, evening television viewers were given the full benefit of the earlier stage-managed oratory in a specially extended news programme.

The official media were also harnessed to the campaign. A signed article on the front page of the official Communist party paper, *Pravda*, accused Mr Yeltsin of seeking con-

frontation and inciting Russians to break with the centre. The commentator described Mr Yeltsin's broadcast as "unhelpful and destructive". He went on: "Most right-thinking people will conclude that this irresponsible incitement to open confrontation will lead to the collapse of the union, to the deepening and sharpening of the crisis and to untold social catastrophes."

A second article said that the broadcast had "destroyed the myth of Yeltsin as saviour of the fatherland" and accused him of remaining in spirit always in opposition. It concluded: "All you can say is 'Oh, my poor country'."

Beneath the article was an appeal from the Moscow City Communist Party which must have been drafted even before Mr Yeltsin went on air, saying that it was "criminal to set the interests of Russia and those of the union against each other." The head of the Moscow party, Yuri Prokofyev, is regarded as one of Mr Gorbachev's chief allies.

Yesterday, Mr Prokofyev and three other members of what some believe to be the Russian "Committee of National Salvation" in waiting — the defence minister, Marshal

Dmitri Yazov, the interior minister, Boris Pugo, and the head of the KGB Vladimir Kryuchkov — were seated side by side in parliament watching the anti-Yeltsin hysteria unfold.

The object of the Kremlin's wrath was on his way to Yaroslavl, an industrial town four hours' drive north of Moscow, where he was due to meet factory workers and visit a monastery.

The Russian parliament was meeting in committee and offered no formal response.

Out on the streets of Moscow, the people to whom the Russian leader had addressed his appeal responded in stunned disbelief to the unprecedented challenge to President Gorbachev. Some felt that civil war threatened. Others believed Mr Yeltsin's political career was already over.

"It was distressing," said one. "That's the end." A middle-aged man said: "They will never let him on television again, that's for sure." Other people felt that the whole question was too sensitive to discuss.

Overall, a political decision seemed to have been taken to give the real content of the broadcast as little currency as possible. Tuesday night's main evening news failed to report it at all. The generally more adventurous late night news opened by saying that the "main news of the day" was Mr Yeltsin's interview, but then cited only the Moscow Communist protest.

The uproar over Mr Yeltsin's broadcast completely obscured the introduction by the prime minister, Valentin Pavlov, of his blueprint for restructuring the Soviet government. To the disappointment of radical deputies, the proposed structure retains many of the ministries and most of the responsibilities of the old one.

Mr Pavlov said that he favoured a step-by-step approach to administrative reform. It was not possible, he said, in Soviet conditions to move direct from the old system to a new one.

Georgia ultimatum: The Soviet parliament threatened yesterday to impose a state of emergency on a breakaway region of Georgia where more than 30 people have been killed in bitter ethnic fighting this year.

The Supreme Soviet gave Georgia's nationalist leaders three days to extend voluntarily a state of emergency across South Ossetia and stop the bloodshed. It gave a warning that it would otherwise impose the measure without their consent. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 15

## Germany clears de Maizière

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

LOTHAR de Maizière, the last prime minister of East Germany, can reclaim a place in the united German cabinet after being cleared of allegations that he worked for eight years under the codename "Czerny" as an informer of the Stasi secret police.

He resigned as minister without portfolio and deputy leader of the Christian Democrats (CDU) on December 17 after saying that he could neither confirm nor deny reports of keeping the hated Stasi informed of what was happening inside the Evangelical Church, one of the centres of resistance to the old communist regime.

Herr de Maizière, a vice-president of the East German federation of evangelical churches, admitted he had contacts with the Stasi, but insisted only in his capacity as a defence lawyer.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, was negotiating to form a new coalition when the unproved allegations came to light. He accepted the resignation reluctantly because he could not run the risk of having anyone in his cabinet with a Stasi past. He said at the time that Herr de Maizière retained his total confidence and he ordered Wolfgang Schäuble, the interior minister, to investigate the Stasi files to establish the accuracy of the allegations.

The preliminary inquiry of Stasi records and files by Joachim Gauck, the interior ministry's special investigator, had shown that a valued informer, "Czerny", and Herr de Maizière could have been the same person. This was backed by evidence supplied by former Stasi agents. It was on the basis of this that Herr de Maizière resigned.

The full inquiry was needed to discover whether this evidence was real or had been forged to discredit the former prime minister, who had been so involved in destroying the old communist state. The full findings are expected to be released later this week, but yesterday Volker Rübe, the CDU general secretary, said:



De Maizière: way is now clear to return to cabinet

"As far as I know the allegations have not been confirmed." This would allow him to resume his posts, Herr Rübe said. This will go some way to correcting the imbalance of representation from the two parts of the country inside the party and the government. In cabinet, Herr de Maizière can give much-needed weight and experience to the east German presence, which comprises just three second-rank portfolios at present.

## Colony hits at airport critics

SIR David Wilson, Hong Kong's governor, said yesterday that Chinese criticism of a port and airport project for the colony could add to its cost by souring the political climate.

Speaking to the Foreign Correspondents Club, Sir David said investor confidence in the proposed HK\$127 billion (£8.3 billion) project could be damaged by comments from Peking, which has been sharply critical, saying it could drain the colony's coffers before it is handed back to China in 1997.

The project will straddle the handover period and potential private investors, whom the government is hoping will finance the bulk of the costs, will have to weigh the risks. "If you're looking for investment for something like an

airport, that investor will inevitably look at the overall political climate. If there is worry about political climate on the airport, investors will lead their bids with a certain insurance margin, and the cost to Hong Kong will be that much greater," he said.

With a third round of project consultative talks with Peking starting today, Sir David said the Hong Kong government was committed to keeping China informed. He suggested that Hong Kong might consider building the project in stages, although it would not be scaled down.

"You would phase parts of that programme without scaling down the final scheme. If one tried to scale down the airport, you'd very quickly get to the point where there is no point in replacing Kai Tak,"

he said, referring to Hong Kong's international airport, which experts estimate will reach full capacity in the mid-1990s. "So in trying to plan for the future, it only makes sense if you plan something much bigger long-term, much more effective long-term, and much more economic long-term than Kai Tak," he said.

"How you phase the particular elements of that makes a great deal of difference to the cash flow of the project," he said, adding that Hong Kong was prepared to listen to views put forward by Peking. "If we are talking to the Chinese and explaining to them what we're doing, I see part of that process as being a willingness to listen to what they have got to say," he said.

Bernard Levin, page 14



Military aid: a woman reaches her destination in Athens by military truck, after three weeks of public transport strikes forced the government to call in the army

## Greece causing EC despair

FROM PETER GUILFORD IN STRASBOURG

MENTION Greece to a European Community official in Brussels and he shakes his head in despair. The sick man of modern Europe is growing sicker and successive attempts by the nation's politicians to cure him have so far failed.

The United States is advising tourists not to go there for fear of Gulf-related violence, prompting mass holiday cancellations at a time when Greece is in a deepening recession. There are fears in Brussels that, as Greece slips further into poverty, it will be marginalised from EC decision-making. This could tarnish the EC's image and slow the pace of economic and monetary union. Ironically, this is the Greek government's strongest card as it asks for more help from its partners.

To make matters worse, Germany, Italy and The Netherlands are urging Greece to resolve its dispute with Turkey over Cyprus, and have implied that future EC help might depend on this. Athens

has said it will only lift its veto on an EC economic agreement with Turkey if Ankara shows willingness to remove some of its troops from the island.

Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister, has promised once again to kick away the state crutches supporting the economy, and has won 2.2 billion euros of aid in return. The loan will be confirmed by EC ministers on Monday.

Mr Mitsotakis's Christian Democrat party plans to privatise a large slice of the economy, possibly including telecommunications and electricity, and to reform the countries tax and social security systems. The government plans not to replace the 60,000 state employees it estimates will retire by the end of 1993. This, officials hope, will halve inflation down to ten per cent by 1993 and cut government spending from 23 to 11 per cent over the next three years.

Sources in Brussels have described this as "rather optimistic": a similar rescue package in 1985 collapsed. Mr Mitsotakis looks more determined than his predecessor, Andreas Papandreu, to turn the economy round. He even wants, by 1995, to follow Britain into the European exchange rate mechanism. But he has a parliamentary majority of just two with which to implement reforms which have brought down earlier governments. The Greeks are in a sombre mood: prices are rising and many of those in work can expect a cut in their incomes.

The prime minister may only succeed if the opposition socialist party, which at present looks weak, refrains from playing on dissatisfaction. "If the people are not provoked there will be no unrest," said one Greek commentator. "If they are, the reforms will collapse. Greece's financial credibility will disappear and the country will be pushed right to the margins of the Community."

Chandra Shekhar: prime minister at bay

## Calcutta mob turns against film-makers

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

CITY of joy or not, Calcutta has turned hostile towards a British film crew attempting to make a movie about the life of a rickshaw wallah. Ian Smith, the co-producer said yesterday that the film, based on Dominique Lapierre's novel *City of Joy*, will resume under increased security after an angry mob halted it.

Roland Joffe, the director, who made the Cambodian war film *The Killing Fields*, met officials after the crowd surrounded his crew on a busy street on Tuesday and forced them to stop shooting. During the first days of filming two weeks ago, the crew were involved in disputes with trade unionists and shopkeepers.

Mr Joffe and Mr Smith appealed this week for help from the British diplomatic mission in Calcutta. Anthony Abbott, the British deputy high commissioner, accompanied them to a meeting with senior state government officials yesterday.

Since filming started Mr Joffe has been trying to convince the West Bengal government that his movie would reveal Calcutta's warmth and passion rather than giving it a bad name. The Calcutta intelligentsia hates Lapierre's book. They say it paints a bleak view of the city, the only place in India where hand-pulled rickshaws are still allowed.

The first outbreak of trouble came in the first days of shooting. Calcutta trade unionists were holding their annual conference nearby and a filmhand moved one of their flags because it was in the way. An ensuing row nearly came to blows. Later, local shopkeepers interrupted shooting in support of demands for compensation of 1,000 rupees (£27) for loss of business.

To add to the film makers' troubles two Indian actors have resigned. One, Biplob Dasgupta, said the film would abuse and insult a great city and its people.

● Budget delay: The Indian government is surviving by a thread as it prepares for the opening of the budget session of parliament today. It has decided not to introduce a



Chandra Shekhar: prime minister at bay

planned full budget next Thursday. The dwindling authority of the administration has been further undermined by the loss of five ministers dismissed from parliament by the speaker for infringing anti-defection regulations during a political realignment last November. They include V. C. Shukla, the foreign minister.

Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Congress (I) party, appears anxious to manoeuvre himself into power, but has so far failed to muster enough support to enable him to form a coalition government.

Some Congress MPs believe Mr Gandhi might allow the government to be defeated in the coming budget session and many observers say the power games are making a mockery of India's democratic credentials. The ruling Janata Dal (Socialist) party did not exist three months ago. Chandra Shekhar, appointed prime minister in November, never held a government post.

## Parisian WPC is shot dead

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

FRENCH police appealed for witnesses after a woman police officer was shot and killed, the first such incident in France. Catherine Choukron, aged 27, the mother of a six-month-old child, was shot by a gunman driving a stolen car, belonging to a tourist, in the outskirts of Paris early yesterday.

The officer was operating a radar speed trap on the edge of a northern stretch of the ring road. The motorist apparently opened fire on the police car without warning and then sped away. A bullet pierced the officer's neck, and she died an hour later. A male colleague was seriously wounded.

## Pope invited

President Zhelyu of Bulgaria has invited the Pope to visit his country and promised to investigate a 1981 assassination attempt against the Pope for which Bulgaria was blamed. He told a news conference in London a visit would be a great impetus to improving relations with the rest of the world. (Reuters)

## Water rationed

Los Angeles — The city council here is to start rationing water next month. Residents and businesses in this drought-hit city of more than three million people will have to cut their water usage by 10 per cent after March 1 and by 15 per cent after April 1 or face hefty fines. (Reuters)

## Law of the lash

Barr — Islamic scholars took turns to whip a convicted rapist sentenced to 100 lashes for kidnapping and raping a 14-year-old girl, as thousands of Pakistanis urged them to strike harder. He was held down as religious scholars wearing pistols took turns with short leather whips. (Reuters)

## Population plot

Cape Town — More than half the black high-school pupils polled here in a private survey on AIDS believe contraception is a South African government plot to curb the growth of the black population. Zackie Achmat, co-ordinator of the Bellville Community Health Project, said 1,010 pupils were polled. (Reuters)

## Tibetan slant to an old tale

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

A JAPANESE publishing company, concerned by American charges of racism, claimed this week that the name Sambo in its *Little Black Sambo* stories is not derogatory. Indeed, it is a complimentary name with which black people should be flattered, for in one Tibetan language it means "excellent".

The publishing company Komichi Shobo has distributed 15,000 pamphlets explaining the Tibetan derivation of the name and has urged others to re-examine a two-year-old voluntary ban on printing the book in Japan. Eleven Japanese publishers discontinued production of the stories in

1988 after criticism from a group of black American lawmakers who had cited an abundance of negative racial stereotypes in Japan. The *Sambo* and *Hanna* range of cartoons on towels and stationery produced by Sanrio were also cited as derogatory. "We had no idea that the name Sambo was considered racist in America," said Kazuo Tomatsu of Sanrio.

Young black men have become popular among the more licentious of Japan's women. In Roppongi, Tokyo's nightclub district, a black boyfriend is considered the ultimate accessory. One Ghanaian resident said: "The Japanese are

prejudiced because of ignorance rather than ill-feeling. They think that because I am from Africa, I must be a hungry man. Some people vacate their seats in the subway when I sit down."

Japan may have to be more careful in its treatment of some foreigners, as it is suffering from a severe labour shortage. There are an estimated 35 per cent more jobs available than job seekers. The International Labour Organisation predicts Japan will face a shortage of 2.7 million workers by 2000. Yet Japan has the lowest proportion of legal foreign nationals in its workforce.



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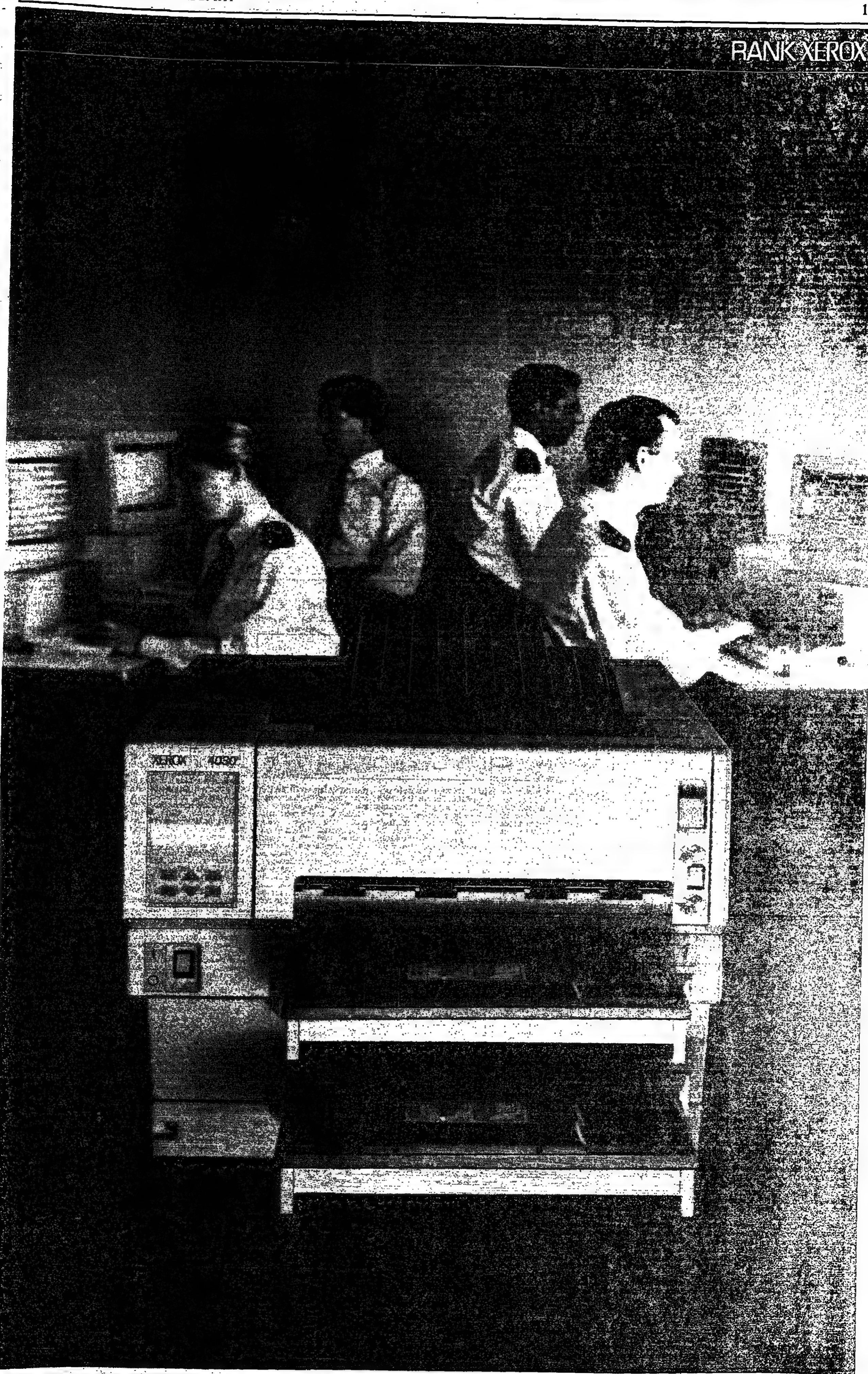
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# An anguished Catholic treads a careful line

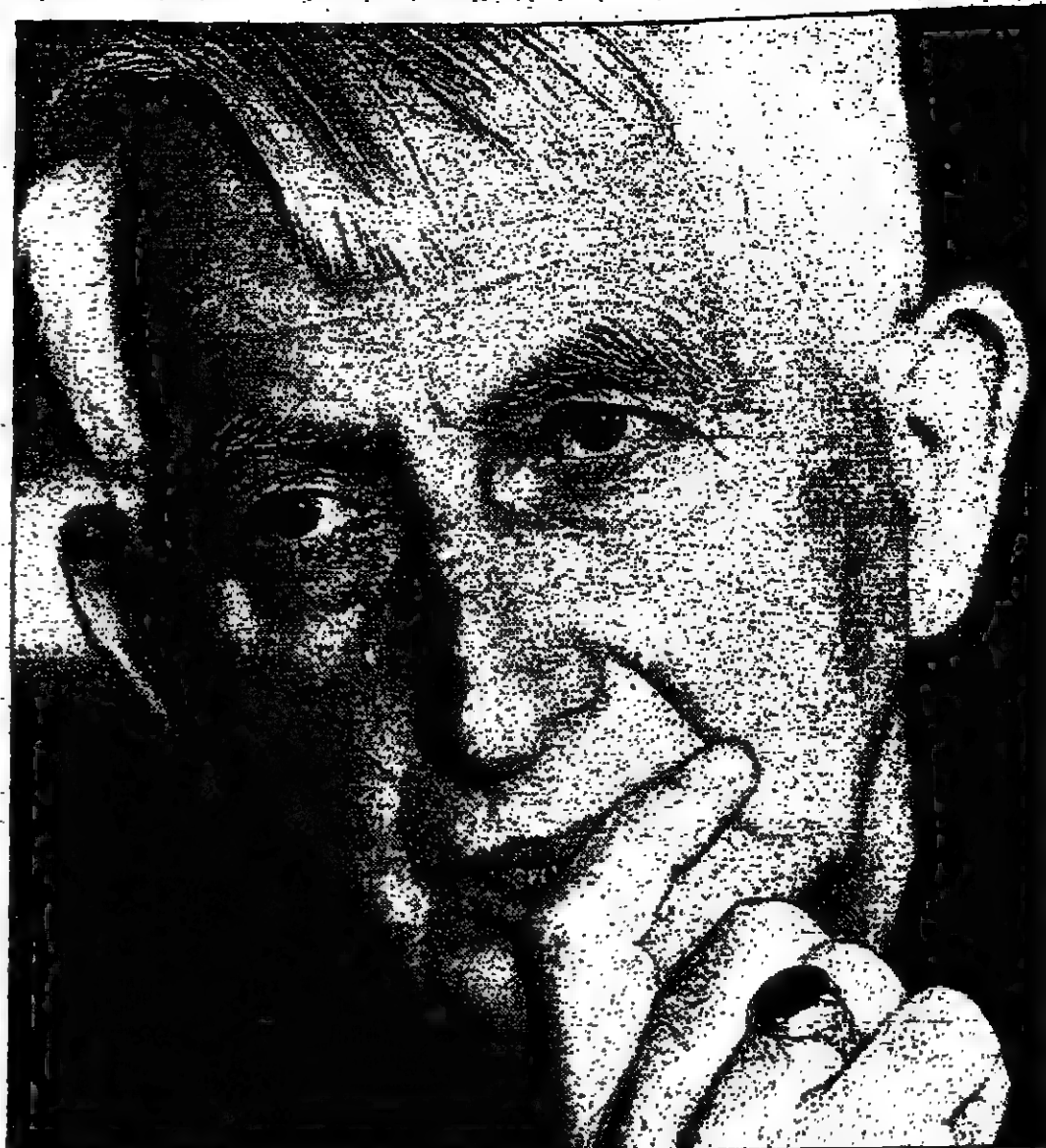
Clifford Longley talks to Cardinal Basil Hume about his personal and public attitudes to a 'just war'

War plays havoc with consciences, perhaps most of all with the consciences of church leaders. Cardinal Basil Hume of Westminster, briefly enjoying in the absence of an Archbishop of Canterbury an unchallenged spell as Britain's senior churchman, finds it more anguishing than most. By temperament and feeling he is almost a pacifist, he told *The Times* in an interview yesterday. "If I could walk along the Embankment with my banner, 'I would be a free man - marvelous!' he said. "But I have to take my responsibilities as a bishop seriously." And as such he has concluded that there is justice on the side of the allied coalition in the Gulf, and that the Catholic tradition - which it is his duty to speak to - does allow war, as a last resort, to redress such injustices as the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Taking his job seriously, in his case, means very seriously indeed. He has acquired and pondered a copy of the Amnesty International report on Iraqi atrocities in Kuwait. He knows the exact date of the gassing of 5,000 Kurds by Saddam Hussein: March 16, 1988. "Those things go terribly deep," he remarked. He has been engrossed in the documents that set forth the traditional Catholic teaching on war. He has given careful interviews to television, preached careful sermons, written careful articles for newspapers. Above all he prays about the war every day. The cardinal speaks for the first time about the daily wrestling on his knees in his private chapel with the morality of warfare - deeply reluctantly, as "I don't like coming across as holy or clever". On the night the allied bombing campaign started, he was woken at 1am by a telephone call. "I remember I felt all that dread which I had felt in 1939. I relived

the whole of that, which was the end of an era; I remember as a boy of 16 listening to the war about to be declared. And I felt that deep depression. I went through all that again at one in the morning. It was quite uncanny." In his chapel that night he felt desolation. "One felt just that situation of Our Lord on the Cross - that this is awful." He could not form his thoughts for prayer then, and has found it a struggle since. He has taken to making notes before praying, for the first time in many years, because he found anxiety was blocking his prayer. The cardinal, with considerable diffidence, decided to allow a glimpse of these notes. "I am keeping these just for my own sake," he said, reading from lined foolscap pages with red handwriting. "February 16. Guide me, Lord, to know what is right. The cost is too great... [I had to write that]... Lord and master, guide us and help... [I should not be doing all this, should I?]... Then on February 15: come to me all you who are burdened and I will refresh you... I pray for this war, the agony, what is right, what is wrong... the wounding and the bereavement, the Iraqi at home - what can I do? I can just be silent with those who are suffering and give them love. My presence speaks of my love." These were some of his most private prayers of the past few weeks. They were read in a whisper with long pauses, with occasional glances at the tape recorder as if in the hope that it

had stopped. "Sometimes the answer to prayer is, in my experience, mostly delayed action, a sudden clarifying of a situation. Or I suddenly see now what is right, or it may be that you have taken an action which you only realise afterwards was really the right one." He did not sit in his chapel afterwards expecting to hear an answer. "But I like to think the Lord has stopped me making a complete ass of myself." Cardinal Hume, for all his eminence a practically minded Benedictine monk at heart, prefers to personalise issues. Discussing the moral dilemma of Catholic servicemen in the Gulf, he mentions senior officers he knows, one of them a brigadier, "a marvellous Catholic". He recalls the yes or no answer demanded of him by a Catholic mother of two, whose husband was in the Gulf. The man was "not sinning" by the performance of his military duty, he told her. He had been greatly impressed when he and Dr Robert Runcie had, at their request, seen John Major. The Holy Spirit's guidance was not confined to those in the Catholic church, he said, and he saw no reason why Mr Major, who impressed him "enormously", should not be so guided in his conduct of the war. Cardinal Hume has been summoned to Rome by Pope John Paul II at the start of next month along with other senior Catholic churchmen. It is for an exchange of views, but had it not been for

the Pope's most recent statement, the scene might have been set for a stern papal rebuke to Western church leaders who have condoned the allied war effort. The Pope has been receiving glowing opinions in the Arab world for his outspoken condemnation of the allied bombing campaign. On Sunday the Pope had complained at the abuse of his previous remarks on the war, and declared: "We are not pacifists. We do not want peace at any price, but peace with justice, which takes into account the rights of all the people concerned." His spokesman said that in those rights the Pope meant the rights of sovereign Kuwait as well as of Iraqis, Palestinians and "all the people of the Middle East". Cardinal Hume said that in view of this he felt there was no longer a gap between himself and the Pope, but he was evidently concerned enough by the perceived difference between them to request a full transcription of Sunday's address. Ultimately, he was sure a substantial difference between them was unlikely, as both were bound by the text of the Second Vatican Council decree *Gaudium et Spes*, which legitimises war in defined circumstances while declaring "Divine Providence urgently commands us to rid ourselves of the ancient slavery of war". "I am clear that as a bishop I have to teach on the basis of a corpus of teaching which is official within the church. That is probably a point many people don't understand, because that means to say it is not always the case that my personal opinions, and what I believe the church is saying, need necessarily coincide. But as a bishop I have to teach from a corpus of teaching... I have to be very aware of the consequences of what a bishop says." He dislikes



Struggles of conscience: the cardinal makes notes because anxiety blocks his prayers

the terminology of "just war", saying: "When people hear those phrases - they take notice of all the jingoistic things." He preferred to keep the traditional just-war theory as the criterion for deciding when a war was certainly immoral. All he meant if he used it was that the Gulf war was not "certainly immoral". "Who am I to say that what *Gaudium et Spes* says was wrong? I may not like it, but I cannot say that. In an ideal world there

should never be war. The vision of a civilisation where all conflicts are resolved without war - of course, that is the ideal. The decree spoke of the "barbarism" of war, and the use of certain weapons as leading to "horror and wickedness". "All those things - that is what the Pope has been saying," the cardinal added. His favourite text from that decree is the passage: "Peace is not the absence of war. It cannot be reduced to mere balance of power. It does not come from tyrannical

domination. It is rightly and properly called the work of justice." "Now, that is how the Pope has now completed his own interventions. Recently he has said that. In other words he has said everything in *Gaudium et Spes*, until recently, except that bit. Now he has completed his doctrine." And the Pope was addressing both sides in the conflict: "It would have been wrong of him to take sides." Until he said that, however, "people could have put him on one side and me on the other side."

Bernard Levin on the ever more alarming portents for Chinese rule of Hong Kong

## Smile on the face of the dragon

The most recent Chinese show-trials have followed the pattern of the earlier ones, except that the sentences have been heavier, as befits the demands that the victims should not only admit guilt but incriminate others, equally innocent, and even offer praise for the bestial form of justice that is practised in China. Let no one who lives in freedom look down upon the victim whose script obliged him to recite thanks to his captors "who have redeemed me with education and for the care they gave me".

As for the two heroes who received sentences of 13 years for their refusal to confess, let their names at least be given again: they were Wang Juntao (who has rebuked those who recanted, though he, surely, has a right to) and Chen Ziming. These two have fought for democracy since the end of the Cultural Revolution; so has another name on the roll of honour, Ren Wanding, sentenced to seven years, he had earlier defended the pitiful courage of those who made the "Democracy Wall" and got four years for the presumption.

The Chinese rulers had the greatest fright of their lives in Tiananmen Square. If more such trials are thought to be required, they will be organised, to ensure that the Chinese people do not forget what happens to those who frighten their leaders. And this is the regime to which a

British government intends to hand over Hong Kong, six years from now, with no assurances as to the rights and freedoms of millions of people for whom Britain was and is responsible. No assurances? None; the entire structure of the Joint Declaration was a conjuring trick. What was said was that the Chinese leaders had promised to leave Hong Kong its curious freedom-in-limbo status for 50 years. What our government hoped - in vain, happily - was that there would not be any possibility of enforcing that promise. Of all the dishonesties of our Foreign Office over the years, and you must admit that there are plenty to choose from, the one that sticks worst in my nostrils is the defence it put about when people began to notice the discrepancy between a worthless totalitarian signature and the safety of millions of human beings. It was that the Chinese would honour their pledge because Hong Kong would be more valuable to them free than unfree.

They went on saying that, in one form or another, until the events in Tiananmen Square, when even they could not go on repeating the mantra. Mark, though, that they did not fall back on the truth; they simply shut up and waited for better times - a time when enough people had forgotten not only the massacre but the subsequent hunting down and killing of those who escaped the original vengeance. Even before the massacre and what followed, there had been ominous pressure from the Chinese; the series of promised direct elections for Hong Kong was in danger, and demonstrations

planned for January 20, the 150th anniversary of British sovereignty over Hong Kong, were cancelled. Still, the events were taking place in a far-away country between people of whom we know nothing, and our government was snuffing the wind, wondering whether memories of Tiananmen Square had faded sufficiently for the plight of Hong Kong to fade with it. If so, it would make little difference if the frightful Levin was still going on about it, and anyway even he couldn't go on for

ever. And then things went disastrously wrong. It began with the airport business. Hong Kong has long needed a new one, together with extra port facilities and a bridge, and this immense project was being planned - it will take years to build - when the Chinese authorities stepped in. They agreed that such an expansion was necessary, but they would not have British government and British enterprise embarking on it without asking China's permission. Anyone who has read the handover pact will know that until 1997 Hong Kong's status is supposed to remain exactly as it is; there is nothing in the agreement that would give China any right to interfere with such a construction. But when China catches cold, Britain sneezes; the airport requires China's *shih* (order), and the plan must wait until it is given. But that was only the preamble. Deng Xiaoping, the Dictator Emeritus of China, has now admitted the truth about his signature on the Joint Declaration; it is, as has been obvious from the start, worthless. He promised that when Hong Kong

reverts to Chinese sovereignty there will be no nonsense about democracy; those who advocate it will be removed from government. And he left no room for the Foreign Office's Department of Alternative Readings when he said: "The opposition party which organised the alliance in support of democracy has to be kicked out of the political establishment." If they thought otherwise, he added, they were victims of an "unrealistic illusion". Nor was that all; he insisted that China has a right to be involved in all major policy decisions affecting Hong Kong before 1997. And he said plainly that if there were a "rebellion" in Hong Kong after the transfer, he would send in his army to crush it. (He did not define "rebellion", but to label any dissent with that name and use the result as a pretext for sending in the troops is one of the oldest of totalitarian devices.) None of this, I must stress, has changed the plight of Hong Kong; it was always true that there would be no democracy there after 1997, that until then Britain's representatives must bow to China's orders, that they will all end up with chains back-pain, that Britain had a responsibility for its unique colony upon which it simply defaulted. The only difference is that the British government, and in particular the Foreign Office, can now no longer go on denying any of it. So what do they now say instead?

...and moreover

### CLEMENT FREUD

It was a close-run thing last October it looked over the shouting for window cleaners; there followed a Christmas campaign by airlines from the Orient boosting the claims of flight controllers, with strong cases being made for both dental hygienists and astrologers. To my delight, at last weekend's Luxembourg meeting, 1993 was officially designated International Be Nice To Waiters Year.

On Saturday I take a Pan Am jumbo to Los Angeles to attend the convocation of the agenda committee, where I am sitting for England. We have a serious chance of beating Belgium and the Seychelles in the election for chair, which means that much of what goes on could be organised our way. It was consideration of the change of status in the waiters' lot that swung the vote, rather as filling-station attendants came through in 1971 after the introduction of self-service in garage forecourts.

Only 10 years ago the restaurant waiter was king. There was no stage during the service of a meal in which he was not in total control of the customers' destiny. Goodness, the chef cooked, but the chef's contribution ended when the silver platter of food left the kitchen hotplate; it was the waiter who brought it to the restaurant, rearranged the layout, tasted the sauce, baked the plate and recooked the food on his burner; the waiter who carved the best end of lamb and filled the sole; the waiter who decided that the

### Designer jubilation

In an advance of the multifarious public salutes, bouffes and street parties to celebrate her ruby jubilee next year the Queen has approved a commemorative royal logo for the occasion. The motif is a crown-fashioned out of ribbons above the message, *Her Majesty the Queen's 40th Jubilee*. It will be reproduced on everything from mugs to municipal flowerbeds. Designed by the London firm Sampson Tyrrell, the symbol was commissioned by the Royal Anniversary Trust, which is organising nationwide celebrations from February to October. "We asked Sampson Tyrrell to create a symbol and words to unify the various activities throughout the year," says Robin Gill, chief executive of the Trust. Set up with the Queen's approval, the Trust is chaired by George Younger MP, and is currently overseeing plans for a host of events to mark the latest milestone in the Queen's reign.

The ribbons reflect the celebratory nature of events, says designer David Freeman, while the twisted strands at the summit of the crown, reminiscent of the top of a maypole, symbolise the nation moving together. Unusually, the designers have departed from the traditional red, white and blue of the national flag and have incorporated canary yellow and grey ribbons. Eight designers have been working on the logo for four months. "We looked at lots of designs, including rather a lot of trumpets before we gradually refined the work on the crown," says Freeman. Once a favourite haunt of the Bloomsbury group, Garsington Manor in Oxfordshire is now making its name as an opera centre. This summer will see performances before 300 guests of Haydn's *Il mondo della luna* by the Covent Garden Festival Orchestra and Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* by Opera 80. Those attending are welcome to arrive from 3pm onwards to picnic in the garden, says Rosalind Ingrams, mistress of the house and the inspiration behind Garsington's operatic renaissance. "We started putting on operas two years ago, but this year we have formed a company called Garsington Opera."

Backed by John Mortimer and Sir Patrick Neill, warden of All Souls College, the company has charitable status and will give the proceeds to the Oxford Playhouse and the Bodleian. As for the inevitable comparison with that other rural home of opera, Mrs Ingrams is firm. "We hope that we never become like Glyndebourne," she says. "We want to remain small and rare."

John Major's self-placement is not newly acquired. At a recent dinner for senior Conservatives, he recalled how, in 1978, he narrowly beat Chris Patten to win the Tory nomination for the safe seat of Huntingdon. After the result was announced, Major asked the local party chairman why he had been preferred. "Oh, Patten's so good he will win a seat anywhere," was the reply. "From that day on," said Major, "I knew where I stood in the constituency."

Hippo hooray The tide of change in Eastern Europe has not unduly bothered the two hippopotamuses of Budapest zoo. They continue to astonish experts with their fecundity, producing offspring in each of the past three years, a remarkable rate for the species in captivity, says the zoo. Their high reproductive rate has been attributed to the water diverted into their pool from the nearby Szechenyi Baths, reputed to be the best spa in Hungary. A proud spokesman says: "The warm, medicinal waters are proving a marvellous tonic for humans and hippos alike."





## HALF A PEACE PLAN

The Soviet Union has thrown President Saddam Hussein a lifeline to help him withdraw from Kuwait. Even if Saddam were to grasp it, however, the Russians could not haul him back by themselves. The leading members of the international alliance, notably the USA, Saudi Arabia and Britain, would have to endorse it. This they are reluctant to do.

They have scrupulously observed President Gorbachev's request not to disclose the Moscow plan's contents and have thus been handicapped in explaining their objections. But enough is now known for preliminary judgment: the offer is related to United Nations resolutions but is wholly inadequate to bring about a settlement in the Gulf.

The plan is understood to have several stages. The first would be a firm commitment by Saddam to withdraw from the whole of Kuwait, promptly followed by the first withdrawals. The allies have already said they would not attack troops in retreat, as they have said they have no subsequent aggressive designs on Iraq or its leadership. Such an order to his troops from Saddam would be followed by a ceasefire to complete the withdrawal. So far, so good in theory.

In the second phase, there would be exchanges of prisoners-of-war, and implementation of the other 11 UN security council resolutions. Soviet sources suggest there are incentives for Saddam: pledges of Iraq's territorial integrity, Soviet sponsorship of negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait, talks on the Arab-Israeli conflict, and gradual replacement of Western forces in the Gulf by Arab or UN peacekeeping contingents.

Here difficulties arise, reflecting back on the plausibility of phase one. The obvious drawback is the phasing itself. Saddam must be regarded as totally unreliable in matters of treaties and diplomacy. He will keep a bargain only under force majeure. The allies are insisting that he accept from the start not only UN resolution 660 but all other UN resolutions. This includes 662, which invalidated Saddam's annexation of Kuwait, and 674, which renders Iraq liable to compensate

Kuwait and other countries damaged by its aggression. Saddam is believed to be reluctant to accept these.

Furthermore, two years after the Iran-Iraq war, Saddam was still holding Iranian POWs as hostages. In this war, he has refused Red Cross access to Western POWs, which he has used as human shields in military installations. He has refused even to admit that some 2,000 captured Kuwaiti soldiers are POWs at all: many are probably now dead. The handover of prisoners must be an immediate concomitant of withdrawal.

A more basic objection is not the content of Moscow's implied conditionality, but the fact of bargaining at all. Withdrawal is supposed to be unconditional and immediate. Nothing could be clearer than that. So why is Tariq Aziz flying back and forth and promising statements hours then days later? The evidence is overwhelming that Saddam is simply playing for time, seeking to split the allies, embarrassing everybody available to be embarrassed. As the Russians said yesterday, all he had to do was call the Soviet embassy and say yes.

Without relaxing the military pressure, President Bush must now urgently persuade his allies that the Russian plan is unacceptable and offers no reason for delaying the land war, now believed to be imminent.

Hitherto, there has been good cause for delay. Air bombardment has reduced Iraqi resistance. The Soviet plan, by creating turmoil in Iraq, just might have saved allied lives by achieving a settlement or at least by further eroding Iraqi military morale. Even now, the Americans could afford a brief further delay if it is needed to cement the allies behind James Baker's "no negotiations, no confusion" call of yesterday.

Both for the lives of his and the allied soldiers and for the cause of his diplomacy, President Bush has every incentive to go the extra inch for peace. The Soviet plan was not quite that extra inch, and its always tenuous credibility depended on Saddam Hussein's prompt acceptance. There could be no clearer indication of his reckless cynicism.

## VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

Boris Yeltsin, the Russian Federation's rumbustious president, had the nerve to use a rare broadcast to the entire Soviet Union on Tuesday evening to demand the resignation of the man who had graciously permitted him airtime: Mikhail Gorbachev. Mr Yeltsin has never lacked guts. Radio Russia, the voice of Mr Yeltsin's nationalist government, has been "prevented" from attacking the Soviet regime. But the duel between the two remarkable Russians continues. Would Mr Yeltsin make a good replacement for Mr Gorbachev? Or is he, as his enemies claim, a vodka-drinking chauvinist of no fixed political abode, who is fomenting civil war?

The overseas diplomatic establishment has taken the view that Mr Gorbachev remains the best bet, if not for progress in the Soviet Union, at least for staving off chaos. He is the known devil. He has a track record of pragmatism in foreign affairs. Mr Yeltsin, according to this view, may be popular but is a narrow Russian nationalist. He may have disarmed himself from the extremist Pamyat movement, but he remains a shadowy figure, with the potential to unleash anarchy.

Yet the Yeltsin approach to the conflicts of the Soviet Union has been more sensitive than Mr Gorbachev's, and has brought a number of the republics to agree on a treaty. Mr Yeltsin's idea of transferring power from the Soviet presidency to the inter-republican Federation Council is equally plausible, if only as a halfway stage to a new confederal constitution. With Mr Gorbachev peddling backwards, Mr Yeltsin's progressive ideas are hardly treacherous.

The reason why the West must trust Mr Yeltsin and the Soviet opposition has little to do with the ethics of interfering in Soviet domestic affairs. It is fast becoming the same

question as arose in Eastern Europe, of backing the right argument. Mr Gorbachev has no significant popular constituency; he has only the army, the bureaucracy and the KGB to rely on. Mr Yeltsin lacks formal power, which partly explains his recent loss of popular support: many Russians expected him to remedy their grievances. But he still has votes in his pocket.

Mr Gorbachev's conduct of the Soviet economy since 1988 has been deplorable, even by comparison with the Brezhnev era. Hyper-inflation is now a domestic reality, not a foreign conspiracy. Private ownership of land, that *sine qua non* of all post-feudal economies, still faces an implacable opponent in the Soviet president. Mr Yeltsin may have feeble and even sinister characters in his entourage, but he is at least trying to loosen the limbs of the colossus and move it in the right direction.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR yesterday voted by a large majority to condemn Mr Yeltsin's comments on Tuesday as tending to the "liquidation" of the Soviet constitution and to civil war. The fact that well-founded criticism still meets with such hostility from this largely undemocratic body is not surprising, but it is ominous. The next phase of political conflict in Moscow may be less restrained than the last. Mr Yeltsin has been under severe attack from official organs over recent weeks.

Doubts about Mr Yeltsin, who in a few years transformed his allegiance to the party machine into outright opposition to the *ancien régime*, are legitimate. Yet he has said nothing to justify putting him in political quarantine. As the Soviet President seeks to gain himself a new lease of life by means of his Gulf peace plan, Boris Yeltsin ought not to be abandoned. He is, however, fleetingly, the political conscience of Russia.

## TAXING GAS GUZZLERS

Suppose there were a tax reform that would improve the environment, save energy, reduce public expenditure and make tax fairer between the better and the worse off. Suppose that reform could be made without adding to inflation. Suppose, moreover, it was supported overwhelmingly by the public in the polls. Would not the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduce it at once? Maybe. Norman Lamont is reported to be flirting with such a proposal for next month's budget. He is contemplating the abolition of the £100 annual vehicle excise duty (VED) on cars. The lost revenue would be made up through a supplement of 50p per gallon or so to fuel tax.

In the history of public policy, so overwhelming a case for change is rare. It would transform the spread of motoring costs. People would pay to the extent they use their car, a decision which involves heavy communal costs. The little old lady, doing a few miles a year, would pay less than she does now. The commuter in the traffic jam, pouring fumes into the lungs of his fellow citizens, the businessman pounding the motorway on "office petrol", would pay more.

According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), the change in motor taxation from average to marginal cost would cut car use by 8 per cent in one year. That would use 8 per cent less fuel, burn 8 per cent less environmental damage down, and 8 per cent less crowding on the roads.

In the longer term, the saving would be more dramatic. Fuel-efficient cars would be at a premium over the gas-guzzlers. Efficient

rumabouts would gradually replace them. The cost of living would not be affected because the increase in petrol prices would be counter-balanced by the saving on VED. Justice would be done, because (again according to the IFS) petrol tax bears least heavily on the poorest members of the community. And the public would be pleased. VED is a most unpopular tax, because those who pay it resent others evading it. Seven in ten of those questioned, according to Gallup, favour scrapping it in favour of higher petrol tax.

The case for change has been overwhelming for 20 years, since oil prices first took off. Five chancellors have, at one time or another, been poised to do the deed: VED has been frozen at £100 since 1985. They have wilted in the face of the twin pillars of fiscal conservatism: fear of the losers and funk in the face of vested interests. Those who lose from the change will assuredly moan. Those who gain will silently pocket their profit.

Tories in marginal rural seats worry that their constituents, deprived of a decent public transport system, would lose. Liberal devotees of community politics stand ready to exploit their grievances. Whitehall trembles before the British car industry which, having no confidence in its ability to make money out of small cars, prefers a fiscal regime which encourages people to buy big. But the Gulf war has underlined the dangers of over-dependence on oil. Mr Lamont should bravely venture where none before has dared to tread.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Wider perspective on peace and war

From Mrs Joan Ruddock, MP for Lewisham, Deptford (Labour)

Sir, Your leader, "Two sharp with Short" (February 16), argues for tolerance by Labour's leadership in the face of public comment about the Gulf war by people like Clare Short and myself.

Many would agree that while the normal roles of front-bench portfolios properly prohibited MPs from speaking on other topics, war creates exceptional circumstances. But, contrary to the sentiments expressed in your leader, no such understanding has come from the media.

Whenever I have been contacted and expressed any view whatsoever, I have immediately been asked if I was criticising the Labour leadership and if the Labour party was about to split. The fact that I had something relevant to say about the conduct of the war by the British government was entirely secondary.

Sadly, the treatment of politicians and their opinions by the media is itself a severely limiting factor on the practice of open politics.

Yours faithfully,  
JOAN RUDDOCK,  
Home of Commons,  
February 18.

From the Right Reverend  
J. V. Taylor

Sir, I have read with great relief the letter from Mr Frank Blandy and others (February 19) because it opens up the wider context of space and time in which the present war in the Gulf needs to be perceived. For, in order to warrant the massive resort to arms against Iraq, world opinion has been persuaded to look no further than Saddam Hussein's brutal invasion of Kuwait six months ago.

In the short term that may have sufficed as just cause, but in truth it is only a detail in a much larger canvas. To pretend that the real cause was the invasion of Kuwait is to pretend that the real cause was the invasion of Kuwait. It is to pretend that the real cause was the invasion of Kuwait. It is to pretend that the real cause was the invasion of Kuwait.

To restore the former status quo of the Middle East is not a war aim worth fighting for, since that status quo has proved itself to be a perfect recipe for unresolved conflict and recurrent acts of war. Nor will the removal of Saddam Hussein solve anything.

The one outcome that can ever make tolerable the sacrifice of human lives in the Gulf today must be a new deal for the Middle East as a whole. Why, then, are President Bush and our own Prime Minister so obstinate in refusing to give countenance to the only objective that will, even in retrospect, make this war appear to have been just? Successive foreign secretaries have in the past allowed themselves to admit publicly that the Israeli-Palestinian question must be brought to some peace conference.

### Gas masks in Israel

From Mr Burt Keimach

Sir, Mr Machover and Ms Thornhill (February 6) must surely be aware that there are over 400,000 Israelis, mainly children and people suffering from asthma, who have not yet received gas masks.

Recently specific civil defence measures have been taken in Judea, Samaria (the West Bank) and the Gaza district for the 1.7 million non-citizen residents there. For example, six hospitals have already been prepared and equipped for dealing with casualties from chemical and biological agents and all the medical staff in the hospitals have been given gas masks, along with instructions in Arabic on how to deal with casualties. Eighty ambulance drivers have been issued with special

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Sir, I sympathise with the plight of British farmers, as described by Michael Hornsby ("Weed out the high-cost farmers", February 12). However, they are not alone. Failing farm incomes are a problem worldwide and New Zealand farmers, too, have had their share of difficulties.

We believe the only way ahead is for farmers to become more actively involved in their whole industry. Farmers everywhere have to increase their farm-gate share of the final market value for their produce if they are to survive. One way, for example, is to retain ownership of their product deeper into the market through, for example, co-operative selling arrangements.

Despite UK farmers receiving subsidies since the UK entered the EC in 1973, they are now worse off. Farm incomes have fallen, stock-piles of surplus production are rising and the cost of support is escalating. Experience both here and elsewhere demonstrates that it is impossible to manage agricultural markets in the long term. Only the market can determine what the returns shall be. Furthermore, it should be remembered that a subsidy to one group in the Community is a tax on others.

The common agricultural policy has succeeded only in conditioning farmers into accepting a permanent subsidiary role in which they can never expect to pay their own way — an attitude which an increasing majority of consumers now view with concern. But many UK and other EC farmers are efficient and would survive without subsidies in a free-market situation. They have above all one enormous advantage over other producers — a large market right on their doorstep.

The attitudes of European governments towards the CAP have become noticeably more impatient in recent months as its costs escalate beyond the agreed budget, now demanding more than half the total EC budget and preventing investment in other areas of the economy.

There is no doubt that reform is essential. But unless that reform addresses the basic issues realistically, it will only damage the infrastructure of European farming even more than it has to date. Without fundamental reform the future for European agriculture is bleak.

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Women's work is far too often part-time and low-paid — but not necessarily low-skilled. Women represent almost half of the workforce but receive far less of the rewards, which is precisely why we at the Equal Opportunities Commission are assisting so many women in claiming equal pay for work of equal value.

The fact that rising unemployment coincides with major skills shortages reinforces our point that employers must urgently reassess the skills of their women workers and provide the necessary retraining if they are to survive the recession.

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## Another small step for man

A NEW breed of semiconductor memory chips, each able to store the contents of a dozen books in an area the size of a fingernail, is moving out of the laboratory and into experimental production.

The 64-megabit chips will be placed not just in computers but in a wide range of electronic applications, although they are not likely to be in general use for about three years.

Powerful pocket computers will be limited in size only by the need for a visible screen, as heavy and slow disc drives are replaced by the small chips that can retrieve information almost instantaneously.

High-quality colour facsimile machines and audio recorders operating without tape by storing music digitally on the chips are next on the list. Electronic still cameras able to rival the quality of film are also likely to be manufactured.

The chips are also expected to be used in improving the technology in cars and reducing the cost of expensive high-definition television sets now being developed.

Last week, four Japanese companies said they had developed new circuit designs for the chips that will minimise problems caused by reducing the complexity and size of memory cells. Such designs should be more suitable for mass production.

The chips, known as dynamic random access memory, or dram, require circuit lines less than four-thousandths of a millimetre long to be etched on to a silicon base using photo lithography.

The announcements, made at a conference in San Francisco, by Toshiba, Fujitsu, Matsushita and Mitsubishi, confirm the view that Japan is developing an unstoppable lead over Europe and the United States in the technology and, with it, a headstart in developing the many products that will be able to use them.

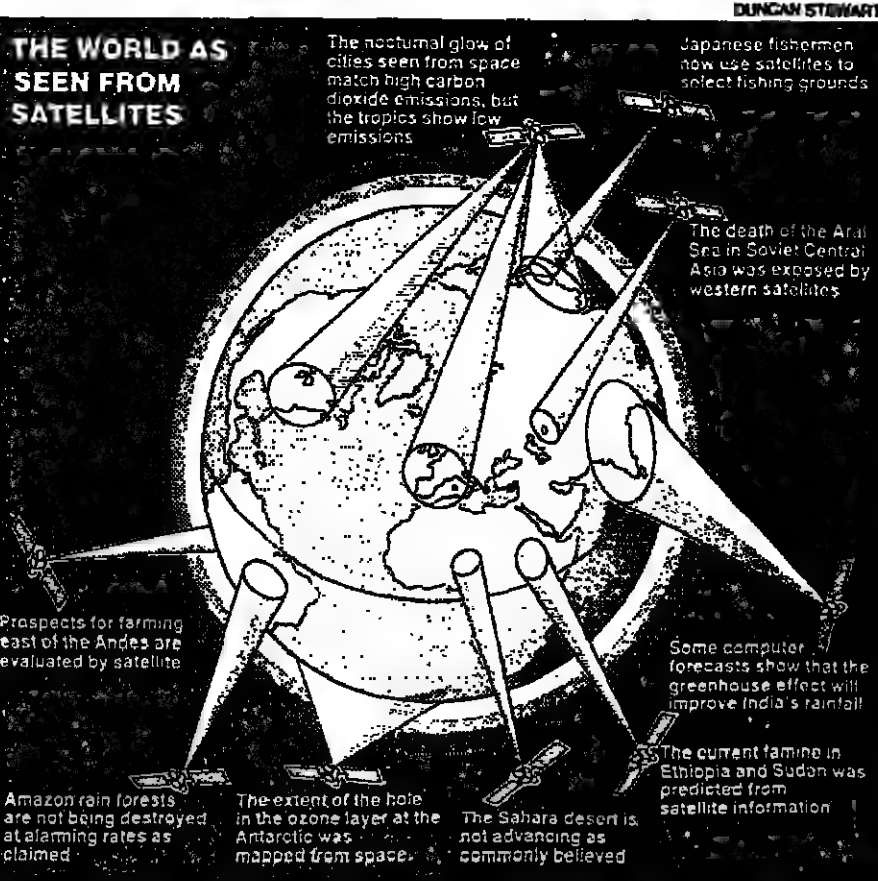
The most serious competitors outside Japan are the American IBM and German Siemens computer companies. They have agreed to develop a 64-megabit chip jointly to try to speed up the process and share the inevitably huge research and development costs.

The sale of such chips, which are 16 times as powerful as those now in use, is expected to reach a peak by the end of the decade, when they are likely to be superseded by the even more powerful 256-megabit chip.

MATTHEW MAY



Early warning: famine predictions by satellites can alert the aid agencies. Right: examples of environmental discoveries made from space



## A true picture of Earth

Have environmentalists been too alarmist about the state of the Earth? The latest pictures from space provided by satellites are giving more accurate information about the health of the planet.

Evidence from space contradicts some assertions, about the "marching Sahara", for example. The terrible droughts in the Sahel at its southern edge gave rise to quasi-scientific claims that the Sahara was advancing southwards at more than three miles a year.

Satellites now measure the vigour of African vegetation. When the rains are good, normal vegetation reappears in drought-afflicted areas and the desert shows no sign of a general advance.

Satellites show that, contrary to previous belief, productive land is lost not at the desert's edge but in moist districts where intensive grazing or attempts at cultivation over-tax low-fertility soil. The satellites also help to monitor droughts. Last summer, satellite experts at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation predicted the present famine in Ethiopia and the Sudan. The reason that the Sahel droughts have been more frequent in the past 20 years than earlier in the

### Satellites are making scientists question our environmental assumptions. Nigel Calder

allays some widespread fears about the planet

century may lie in sea-temperature changes in the Atlantic Ocean.

However, in other cases, space views have revealed environmental damage. The ozone hole over Antarctica, for example, was detected from the ground at Halley Bay, but the extent and growth of the hole mapped by satellite shocked the world into trying to curb ozone-unfriendly chemicals.

Even before glasnost allowed journalists to visit Soviet Central Asia's mismanaged irrigation schemes at ground level, western satellites observed the shrinkage of the Aral Sea as the most conspicuous man-made change to the face of the planet. Robbed of its river water, the once-bountiful Aral is a new Dead Sea. Salt from its dried-up seabed pollutes the winds and farmlands of Central Asia.

Brazilians have been angered by claims about the loss of the Amazon rain forest. Satellites that measure the growth of cleared areas from year to year show the reports are exaggerated. Recent

clearances in Amazonia amount to between 5 and 7 per cent of the forest, compared with the 44 per cent predicted by an American expert for the late Eighties.

There is still time for sensible action. At the edge of the Amazon basin, the Bolivians are using satellites to help to distinguish forest zones that may be suitable for long-term farming from those that are too fragile.

Attempts to blame tropical deforestation for a great part of the increases in carbon dioxide also fail. Ground-level measurements of carbon dioxide worldwide show relatively little input from the tropics.

A truer picture comes from a space image of the Earth at night, where the energy systems of the rich northern cities radiate extravagant amounts of light into the universe, making a close "geographical match" with the injections of carbon dioxide into the air. The nocturnal image of the Earth is perhaps the most striking

satellite product, showing the differences in living standards from continent to continent.

Alarmist environmentalists can be as casual about human survival as any armchair strategist. They seldom stop to ask why people have so many babies, or over-graze land or clear forests. They show too little awareness of cultures interacting with environments. Real-life issues range from Tokyo's creation of a futuristic "teleport" on a man-made island visible from space to the natural changes in river courses in Bangladesh, as mapped by satellite.

Nature is indifferent to how warm the planet is, or how many species survive. The only practical test for the quality of the environment is quality of human life.

The interpretation can be as broad as one wishes, but it must start with the biological fact that life expectancy is about 15 years less in the world's poor countries than in the rich ones. Human welfare and environmental well-being are not competing aims. They are identical.

● The author is the producer of Spacewatch Earth, a ten-part series which begins on Channel 4 today at 8pm and an accompanying book, Spacewatch Earth (Viking, £17.99).

## Sniffing around for a life-saver

British scientists are searching for a microchip that can smell danger, like the smoke alarm

British research could lead to tiny, low-cost artificial noses being fitted to homes, factories and vehicles to detect useful or dangerous smells with split-second speed.

The project, to put a "nose" on a microchip, has just won funding from the Science and Engineering Research Council, and should be a world first in odour and electrical engineering research.

During blizzards, stranded motorists awaiting rescue have died from carbon monoxide poisoning while running heaters from car engines to keep warm. A nose on a microchip linked to an alarm system would give drivers and passengers early warning of any build-up of hazardous levels of the poisonous gas, which is odourless and colourless.

The research project is being carried out by a team at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (Umist), which has earned an international reputation in artificial-nose engineering.

A Umist nose, made of 20 small sensors surrounded by electronics, and measuring about 1ft long, recently outperformed a squad of truffle-sniffing pigs and another of truffle-sniffing dogs during trials in France.

The microchip nose would have both the sensors and the electronics integrated in a fingernail-size piece of silicon.

Dr Krishna Persaud, a Umist lecturer in instrumentation, who is leading the team, says Edinburgh

university researchers are helping the project. Last month, Edinburgh university announced it had developed a video camera on a microchip, paving the way for cheaper videophones, camcorders, electronic cameras and surveillance equipment. Dr Persaud says a nose on a chip may be achieved in two years.

The Manchester nose, which, like a rival system at Warwick university, tries to simulate the human equivalent, uses organic semiconductor to detect odour chemicals in seconds. It will not, however, be sensitive enough to detect explosives such as Semtex.

Dr Persaud says the nose has been undergoing trials with the European Space Agency (ESA) in Norway, in tests on a model of the Columbus space laboratory. Monitoring air quality in the manned laboratory, planned as part of the American Freedom space-station programme, will be vital. The nose would allow space technicians not only to detect the presence of airborne chemicals but also to pinpoint their source.

In the tests, which involved six people sealed in a laboratory mock-up, the Manchester nose picked up alcohol and ketones in the air emitted by the humans and from experiments. It also spotted the unexpected smell of lemons. Dr Persaud says analysis confirmed the presence in the air of lemonene, the chemical that gives lemons their smell.

NICK NUTTALL



Nose for garlic: researcher Ahmed Ouhf with the odour detector

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### HEAD OF VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY

As an experienced automotive engineer, you already know GKN - we're world famous as suppliers of quality driveline components to all major passenger car manufacturers. At GKN Technology we provide product and process development support to the operating units producing those components - the best in the world. We have excellent and extensive facilities at our site on the edge of Wolverhampton, and work together with the other GKN Development Centres in Germany and the USA on an integrated work programme.

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#### LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from page 17

##### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Re: CHRYSLER HIRE  
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986  
FAIR PLAY FOR THE  
RECEIVERS

COMPANY NUMBER 2002267  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN  
THAT THE RECEIVERS OF THE  
ASSETS OF THE ABOVE COMPANY  
WILL BE HELD AT A MEETING OF  
THE CREDITORS OF THE ABOVE  
COMPANY AT THE CENTRAL  
HALL, 100, FINSBURY PARK  
ROAD, LONDON, N3 2AF, ON  
THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 1991 AT  
11.00 A.M.

In accordance with Rule 3.1(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a creditor shall only be entitled to vote if:

(a) Details of any debt claimed are submitted to the Receivers in writing no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the meeting;

(b) Where the creditor cannot attend in person a form of proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf is lodged with the Receivers before the meeting;

(c) Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

Claims and proxies should be sent to the Administrative Receiver at Touche Ross & Co., 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before 21 February 1991.

For and on behalf of:  
A M D Bird and J P Richards  
Joint Administrative Receivers  
Touche Ross & Co  
69-71 Queen Square  
Bristol BS1 4UP

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# Draw up a strategy for fear

If Gulf troops can face and control their apprehensions, Victoria McKee says, perhaps rail travellers can too

In the depths of the worst slump in their history, President Franklin D. Roosevelt told the American people, in March 1933: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

The young pilots filmed climbing out of their F15s and Tornados after bombing raids on Iraq freely admitted they had also had to fight the enemy within. Now, with threats, real or imagined, of terrorist attacks on civilian targets occupying the headlines, are there lessons we can learn from those who train soldiers and fighter pilots to face fear?

Colonel Arthur Denaro, who will lead the Challenger tanks of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars into combat in the Gulf, told reporters recently: "I have read as much as possible on the subject and I talked to experts, because I firmly believe that the more it is talked about, among my troops the less they will worry about not being able to cope."

Do the "coping strategies" discussed by Colonel Denaro and his troops have any relevance to civilians, perhaps those who now feel nervous about travelling to London by train or Tube?

James Thompson, a senior lecturer in psychology at the University of London and a specialist on the psychology of fear, says: "It is important to distinguish between rational and irrational fear. We can 'de-condition' someone from phobias — stop them being afraid of telephone boxes just because they once saw a bomb go off in one of them. But we can't stop them being afraid of bombs, because bombs are dangerous."

The distinction between a fear and a phobia is made on the basis of whether the surrounding society sees the fear as realistic or not. A fear

of a man approaching you with a gun is realistic. A fear of a spider, in our society, is not.

Dr Thompson agrees with prevailing military thinking that it is impossible to tell from the way people react in ordinary situations how they will react in extraordinary ones. "A hero or heroine," he says, "is usually someone who does something brave once, without realising the risks."

Thompson says. Lady Stormont, who last week chased armed raiders into the street waving a broomstick, hit a "panic button" by her bed but did not panic herself. "You must distinguish between that act and whether she'd do it again," Dr Thompson says.

A professional soldier, police officer or firefighter must be prepared to be brave repeatedly, as part of the job — with a realistic appraisal of the risks involved. "We can all become risk assessors," Dr Thompson says.

"Everyone's got the same basic nervous system, so there's no real difference between military and civilians. It's a probability judgment. If you look at a thing as a statistician, your chances of dying from a bomb in Victoria station are very low. We think,

*'Imagine the worst that can happen, and then organise the options'*

"in order to travel I am willing to accept the possibility of a train crash," but if people start putting bombs around the place it's a real, additional risk. A phobic reaction would be not to go out at all. To decide not to go by Victoria is an avoidance response."

How can you judge if your fear is becoming a phobia? "You have to decide how much you are disabled in your life," Dr Thompson says. "If you don't like lifts but never have to use them, it doesn't matter. But if a friend says 'let's catch the Tube' and you can't go with them because you are afraid of



High risk: emergency workers may weep after the event, but they calculate the dangers

travelling in the Tube, you might feel differently. Every avoidance has its cost."

"You can't totally block out fear," says a brigadier who has seen active service. "An intelligent man knows he's afraid. You've got to anticipate your fears, imagine the worst that could happen, and organise your options."

This principle can be applied by anyone wishing to assert a sense of control. And with a sense of control comes a lessening of fear.

Dr Thompson, who has worked with survivors of the King's Cross fire, says: "The way out of a fear is to find practical ways to cope. But if you have a phobia — an enormous fear about something that is not going to hurt you — the best treatment is to be exposed to the stimulus in a

safe setting so you find out it doesn't harm you. I used to travel with Tube-phobic people, starting out on short overground trips, and gradually getting them to go underground, finally on their own."

Even in those cases it was important for the phobic people to understand as much as possible about the workings of the Underground system, where the exits were, and what they could do in an emergency. By the same logic, a survivor of the Cairo hotel fire says that now, when she goes to a hotel, she makes sure she has a ground or first-floor room, checks that the windows open and counts the number of stairs to the emergency exit. Paranoia? Perhaps. But it has given her a practical

copying strategy to conquer an understandable fear.

In times of emergency a more primitive instinct can assert itself. A military training officer says: "The next time you're on a train, and it stops and the light goes out, and the guard comes down the corridor and says 'we're going to be here for hours' — watch how a train of total strangers will suddenly develop relationships under the stress of the situation."

Perhaps it was this that helped some of those stranded in London Underground trains for up to six hours on Tuesday to cope. Though some were clearly distressed, Dr Peter Hall, a consultant surgeon who attended several of the passengers, said: "My recollection is how remarkably calm everybody was."

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttford

## Pill full of promise

Up and down the country, as Valentine chocolate boxes empty, sweet-toothed men may be surprised to find that their wives or mistresses have eaten the nuts and left them with the soft centres, and later, at any celebratory dinner, to watch them enjoy the fish or meat but reject a black forest gâteau. The reason may not be sudden generosity, or abstinence, but the latest aid to slimming — Adifax (difenfluramine), which has a selective appetite suppressant effect on carbohydrate guzzlers.

Doctors, although fully aware of the increased health risks of being overweight, are often disillusioned by their patients' lack of perseverance with a diet, and abandon the battle. There is no magic drug which sheds weight without dieting. Attempts to alter the metabolic rate are ineffective and dangerous. But having considered and treated any underlying reason which prompts the patient to eat more than he or she needs — from depression, anxiety and loneliness to bad habits, or even a self-dislike (dysmorphia) — it is legitimate to prescribe drugs which help a patient to follow a reducing diet.

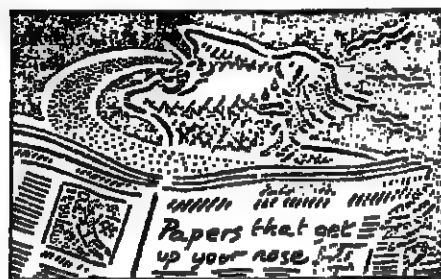
Unfortunately the amphetamines, and other central nervous stimulants, can cause psychiatric breakdown and addictions. Adifax is a new drug, the dextro-rotatory isomer of Ponderax (fenfluramine), which has been available for 20 years. By isolating the dextro-rotatory constituent of fenfluramine, the tablets have become twice as effective, and the side-effects are halved. Adifax acts in a different way from amphetamines. It is not a stimulant, and does not appear to be addictive, but even so



as a precaution it should be used for only three months at a time.

The brain controls appetite. The regulatory mechanism is triggered by the balance between hunger and satiety, the sense of having had enough; whereas amphetamines reduce appetite, Adifax acts by enhancing satiety, thereby blurring patients into thinking they have had enough. It specifically reduces the desire for carbohydrates, including biscuits, sweets, cakes and puddings, but leaves a normal appetite for protein. Adifax is one of a large group of drugs which affect serotonin levels in the brain; must be antidepressants, but Adifax affects only appetite.

## Not fit to read the news?



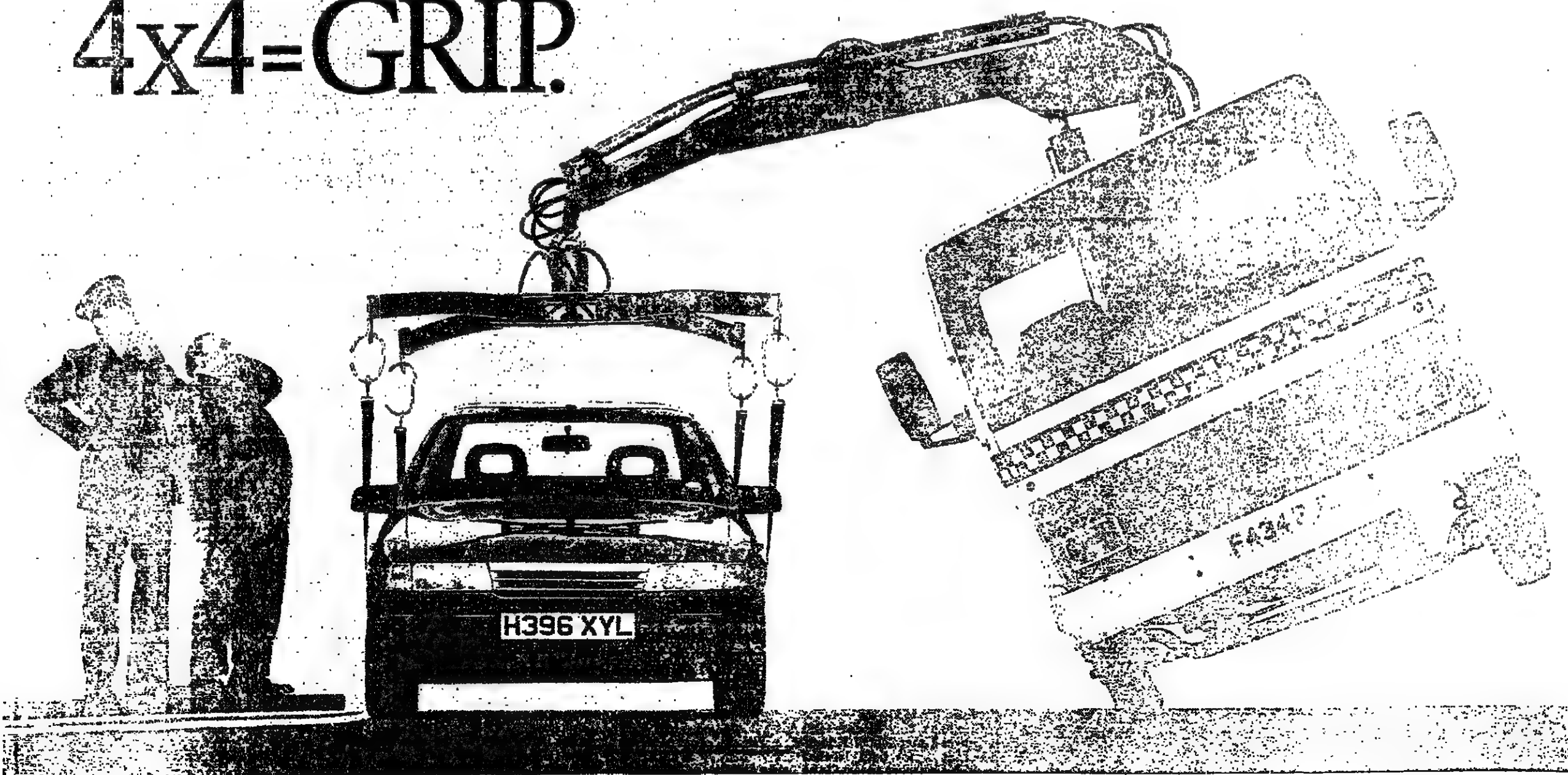
Allergies induced by reading newspapers were recorded in medical literature long before the outcry over war-reporting from Baghdad. So long as there have been newspapers, they have simply got up some people's noses, causing running noses (rhinitis), blocked nasal passages and sneezing.

The journal *Monitor* reports on the

experiments of a group of Swedish ENT specialists, who are showing that, contrary to popular belief, this allergy is due not to the written word — whether the ink or the sentiment expressed — but to paper dust. People who delay reading their papers until the evening, in the hope that by then the ink will be drier, are deluded; any advantage in this strategy is due largely to a reduction in nasal sensitivity in the evening, or possibly partly because others who have read the paper earlier in the day have shaken off superfluous dust.

Allergic reactions can be made worse, or even caused, by getting upset, and so rather than renouncing the papers in favour of the BBC, which might complicate the clinical picture, paper-sensitive people would be better advised to rely on the latest generation of antihistamines — Claritin, Zirtek, Triludan and Hismanal — which have fewer side-effects than the still too often prescribed, older antihistamines. Patients taking the new antihistamines, which cross the blood brain barrier only in very small amounts, find their intellect is undimmed and they can even manage a corvina drink without trouble.

## 4x4=GRIP



By now, most people know that 4-wheel drive systems clamp you to the road. The Cavalier 4-wheel drive system is no exception.

Where it parts company with ordinary 4-wheel drive, though, is that it has brains as well as brawn.

By constantly monitoring the speed of each wheel, the system adjusts the power transmission between front and rear drive-shafts.

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of the rear wheels. The same goes for icy roads, or muddy terrain. (This 4x4 is a confirmed mudlark.)

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and the 130bhp version of the famous 2.0i Cavalier engine, try your local Vauxhall dealer.

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# Czechmate for church and state

Hugh Barnes reviews a masterpiece of biting dogmas and clashing symbols

Among that loose-knit aristocracy of contemporary writers who could be termed world-class novelists — those elevated men and women whose failures no less than their successes demand translation and international scrutiny — probably none is more voracious than Josef Skvorecky. Or, at times, more downright annoying.

His novels can seem matchlessly uninviting to non-Czech readers on account of the mysterious plotting (Skvorecky rarely explains why anybody does anything), the grotesqueries of conduct and, in the case of *The Miracle Game*, other roman à clef elements (God and gonorrhea) puzzling to outsiders. In his writing, Skvorecky tends to punctuate long stretches of murky uneventfulness with sharp moments of extraordinary grisliness. This is an uneasy stylistic alliance often subsumed, in dust-jacket copy and critical discourse, under the catch-all designation "psychological thriller", but, as is true of Kafka and Kundera — two Czech writers whose interests he shares — Skvorecky creates on every page an unexpected compulsion.

Before the revolution of 1989 there was always a certain amount of loose talk in the West about censorship being a nuisance. Writers behind the iron curtain were thought to be glamorous because they had a real subject to write about. It was easy to forget the hardship of struggling against a totalitarian system. Now, strangely enough, there appears to be a controversy over what might be called Kundera's internationalism. Some Czechs argue that his novels written in exile were writ-

ten "for" the French, "for" the Americans, etc., and that this represents some sort of betrayal. By contrast, Skvorecky and his wife, the novelist Zdena Salivarova, virtually abandoned their personal lives to work from Canada on behalf of suppressed Czech literature. *The Miracle Game* was the first novel that Skvorecky wrote after escaping from Czechoslovakia in 1968, in the wake of the Soviet invasion. It appeared in Czech in 1972, and was reprinted in umpteen samizdat editions. Now it is published in English for the first time.

Without doubt, *The Miracle Game* is Skvorecky's masterpiece.

## THE MIRACLE GAME

By Josef Skvorecky  
Translated by Paul Wilson  
Faber, £13.99

Vast in scope, morally engaged without being propagandistic, and intractable to explanation, it deploys a collage technique to recount the history of Czechoslovakia from the late Forties to the Prague Spring. Events are narrated out of sequence. The plot jumps backwards and forwards in time. In the middle of the whirligig is Danny Smiricky, a libidinous sax-playing dissident, and the author's alter-ego, who has served as protagonist and narrator of all Skvorecky's "serious" novels: *The Swell Season*, *The Bass Saxophone*, *The Engineer of Human Souls* and, still untranslated, *The Tank Corps*.

The plot refers to a happening in a church in the Bohemian village of Hronov during the spring of 1949. One morning, while Danny is teaching at the Hronov Health and Social Workers' School, a wooden statue of St Joseph appears to move during mass. Unwillingness of belief is the theme of *The Miracle Game*, which pits the absolutism of the



Read the unbearable lightness and heaviness of being Josef Skvorecky, the novelist between two worlds

Catholic religion against that of Marxism-Leninism. The church proclaims a miracle. The party denounces a fraud. Meanwhile the local priest, Father Doufal, dies in police custody. Twenty years later the unresolved mystery is investigated after the fashion of a whodunit. The dogmas of church and state confront each other again. There is another line of development in *The Miracle Game*, alongside swivelling St Joseph and the sordid biography of its anti-hero, and this line has a cautionary tone. Skvorecky's account of political, religious and sexual manoeuvres develops unexpectedly into a symposium (with

diagrams) on pulleys and levers and electromagnetism and other possible causes of the "miracle". The cover-up becomes a game, a metaphor for the suppression of the Prague Spring — a socialist miracle — and the result is at once ingenious and moving.

Skvorecky is, in some respects, Kundera's opposite. The two novelists could hardly be more different as far as temperament goes. And yet the affinity for exotic bizarreness, the fierce opposition to despair, and the tendency to mix politics and narrative create an odd, tense kinship. *The Miracle Game* is a wonderful novel, in which Skvorecky

juggles ideas. He undergoes astonishing transformations as Kafka did in *Metamorphosis*, but there is no magic, no hocus-pocus here. In fact, Skvorecky prescribes an antidote to magic realism: the book stings. Its elusiveness, its distaste for generalisation and summary, may foster at times a sense of incompleteness.

Skvorecky is a polished writer as well as a literary adventurer. His disney accumulates in short paragraphs, in chapters of moderate length. The transparent prose reminds you that bad things happen and makes you believe they happen in just this way; it is manipulative, unconvincing.

# Dark home truths about the family

There are fashions in mental illness. Look at the last 40 years. The cold war paranoia of the Fifties gave way to the edgily optimistic Sixties. Arthur Schlesinger's *Age of Anxiety*. Then we had punk, and a decade of depressed hopelessness. In the Eighties — remember them? — the pendulum swung back, towards manic, big bang, money-making, and the stress of keeping the stuff long enough to spend it. Now it's *fin de siècle* again, time for another round the Nicteties were Naughty, with hysterical underpinnings. This time, it seems the century is due to end not with a bang, but a whimper.

Who says? Trend-spotting journalist Candida Crewe, that's who. Still in her mid-twenties, Miss Crewe already has three neat comedies of manners under her belt. So we must take seriously the

John Nicholson

## MAD ABOUT BEES



By Candida Crewe  
Helmman, £13.99

## FALLING ANGELS

By Barbara Gowdy  
Bloomsbury, £13.99

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

By Barbara Raskin  
Bantam, £13.99

convention of her fourth novel, *Mad About Bees*, that obsessive compulsion is the fashionable new mental malaise. Her hero, Samuel Sorrell, is funny about electricity. He thinks it's poisonous, so has to check all the sockets before going to bed, for fear his children will die in the night. Normal to the naked eye, Sam likes a nice cup of coffee, but has to tap his head exactly 24 times before he can drink it, or else he collapses in a jibbering heap.

Strange behaviour for a man of science, you might think (Samuel teaches biology at a comprehensive in Parnes's Green). But no stranger than his infatuation with Lucy Hardcastle, head of English, and staffroom siren. After all, he has a devoted wife, Liza, and a brace of beautiful kids. Yet he finds himself telling his sister-in-law, Nell Jobb, that he is irresistibly drawn towards behaviour that will disrupt and then destroy his domestic tranquillity.

Few characters in Miss Crewe's entertaining new book are free from this affliction. Infidelity is rife, not just in the frolicking of the younger generation, but as a potent challenge to 30-year Doris and Joan relationships. The book's milieu is metropolitan and arty, but the message is universal: given a sufficiently attractive offer and decent odds against being caught, most of us will misbehave. There's more to *Mad About Bees* than this, of course. It is well written, carefully observed, and most of the characterisation is pretty convincing. At one point it looks as though we're about to get a happy ending. But then Miss

Crewe pulls herself together and sandbags the virtuous Nell. Sandbags are regulation issue for the Field family in Barbara Gowdy's spicinct second novel, *Falling Angels*. Pa is an ex-military man, who terrorises his womenfolk with his particular brand of obsession — parade ground discipline. Tolerable only when distracted by his latest fiddle, he has long since driven Ma to the bottle, and eventually causes her to take unsteadily to the roof. The girls — Norma, Lou and Sandy — tried to run away to Disneyland when they were little. As they enter the terrible teens, they start to make out with thoroughly unsuitable men — anything to get out of the house, even if it results in unwanted pregnancy. Miss Gowdy provides a fascinating illustration of the Larkin view of the family — as an institution that does only harm to its members.

The Fields operate as a family to humiliate the paterfamilias, as when Pa decides that they must all spend a fortnight incarcerated in the basement to prepare for nuclear war. This is a chillingly effective, ultimately tragic piece of invective, not a pleasant read, but certainly compulsive.

The heroine of Barbara Raskin's new novel, *Current Affairs*, is more ambivalent towards her family. Fond of her mother, Natalie Karavan's only gripe — against

CHESTER HIMES is best known for his wry and violent depiction of life in the ghetto heartlands of New York, in what he ironically called his "Harlem domestic detective novels", which feature two Harlem policemen, Grave Digger Jones and Coffin Ed Johnson. At one level tragic heroes, they fight for the law against their corrupt fellow citizens only to emerge as cynical and disillusioned as those they hunt.

Himes, once a seven-year inmate of Ohio State Penitentiary, went on to live in Paris, where he achieved instant success as the author of what were seen as serious sociological crime novels. Cast the *First Stone* however, is not a roman policier, but draws on the novelist's prison experience, even so far as to have the hero teach himself to type. As Himes once revealed in an interview: "When I could see the end of my

# Telling it how it is inside

## PAPERBACKS

Lisanne Radice

## CAST THE FIRST STONE

By Chester Himes  
Allison & Busby, £5.99

## CURSE THE DARKNESS

By Lesley Grant-Adamson  
Faber, £4.99

## SCREAMING BONES

By Pat Burden  
Headline, £3.50

time inside I bought myself a typewriter and taught myself touch typing." Himes thought he could write as well as Dashiell Hammett. "When my stories finally appeared the other convicts thought exactly the same thing."

The novel tells the story of James Mourou, acknowledged king of the penitentiary, whose word is law. It also reveals his love for the young convict, Duke Dido. Like Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler, Himes presents violence with an unemotional detachment, acting simply as a recording camera eye. But there is more to it than "telling it like it is", for his sensitive portrayal of the grotesque, the absurd, and the tender gives his novels, and this one in particular, a subtlety that is

both moving and haunting. The seediness and vicious perversions of prison life, drawn so sensitively in the novel, are illuminated by

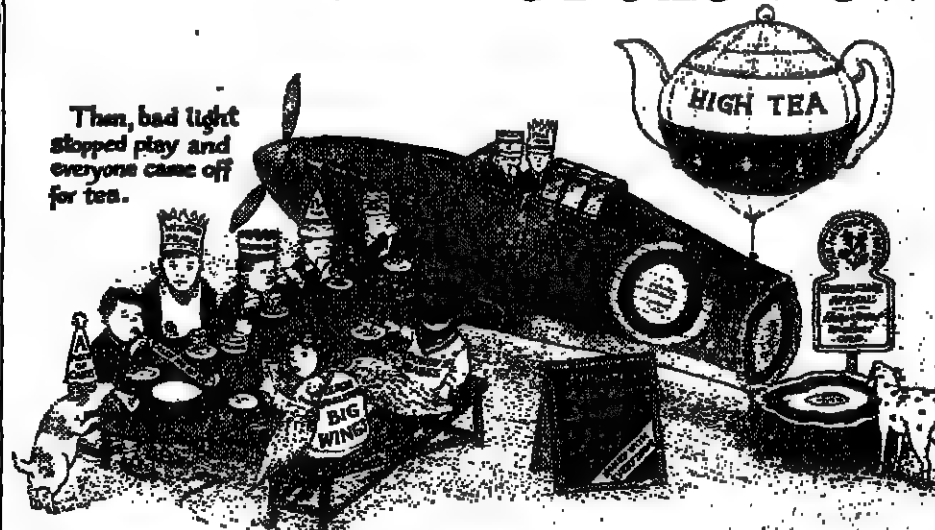
hope, and finally by love.

Lesley Grant-Adamson's *Curse the Darkness* is a far cry from Chester Himes's bitter encapsulation of life in a state penitentiary. Firmly set in the fickle world of the British media and publishing scene, it runs two parallel plots. They are linked by the journalist, Rain Morgan, whose friend, a failed television writer, has apparently committed suicide, and by the pensive and literary agent, David Gerrard, who represents another failure, a young novelist, allegedly drowned off the Cornish coast. Though convoluted in places, *Curse the Darkness* nevertheless has a rich quality of text and characterisation that cancels out any of the longeurs of the sub-plots. Previously a feature

writer on a national newspaper, Grant-Adamson's portrait of the self-absorbed world of the London literary has a sharp accuracy.

Pat Burden is destined to become a success in America, where the market for "English" or "cosy" crime remains insatiable. In *Screaming Bones* we have a truly rural tale with all the right baculic ingredients: quirky villagers, isolated hamlets, 17th century ghosts, pet pigs, Miss Piggy and Barrington-Smythe, sheep rustling and, of course, murder. A splendid concoction for an ex-Detective-Chief-Superintendent Bassett to attempt to come to grips with as he ambles about the countryside searching for the truth. Even though he discovers ancient mummies and second world war scandals, he has time to sip the landlord's best bitters in the company of the all-knowing local yokels. Very slow, but endearing.

# First Form of the Few



Then, bad light stopped play and everyone came off for tea.

## CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

## THE BOY'S OWN BATTLE OF BRITAIN

By, with and from  
Peter Cross  
Pavilion, £7.99

THE lads at Biggin Hill School are in a fix. An upstart institution just across the way, St Hilda's, has been getting very pushy and sweeping up all the European cups. There in its trophy-room you can see the antlers of a reischtag, gained in 1933, the Sudeten Cup, and the Bisch Bosch Gloves (Inter-School Knock-out at Brno) both labelled 1938; also, what appears to be a touring side, the Luger Lions, have captured the Rural Violence 5-a-side Annexing Shield for 1937. "When the 1940 season started," records Peter Cross, "there were also comfortable victories over Dances Hill, St Olaf's, Holland Park, King Leopold's" — and, unprecedently, Notre Dame. Fortunately a new headmaster, Mr Winston, was appointed and he, along with his senior housemaster, Mr Dowdy, sort out a way to win back the initiative.

The battle begins. Volleys of quite horrendous puns are fired off ("Rador" the bath salts that give you early warning of approaching aches and pains", "Bat Oil of Britain"). Burst upon burst of comic-

strip witticisms flash past — anything from parachute drill in the school chapel to a parade of armoured lawnmowers. In the melée all sense of time is lost. (Blue Peter runs a "Spiffies from old socks" appeal, and Chris and Val show you how to make a folded paper model of one. St Hilda's are so busy singing "Here we go, here we go" that they almost miss their slip-road to Biggin Hill off the M25.)

Nevertheless, the whole crazy enterprise struggles through to a triumphant conclusion — not without passing reference to that influential Old Boy, Heath Robinson, W., whose work appears inconspicuously in the school hall alongside pictures of other names of past and present: a winged war-horse in

a field by Stubbs, G. and some rationed Bacon. (But a female incendiary has set light to Sutherland Major's portrait of the headmaster himself.)

I don't know how many of today's young scholars will take in Mr Cross's multifarious jokes before they get to the grand battle on the croquet lawn (Home 18, Visitors 27), but I'm sure they will appreciate "Nunquam in campus de pugno humano erat tantum debit ad milium a tam pauci", which Mr Cross translates as "The lads did magic and extra half hols all round."

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## CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

## Ivory towers over cardboard Russian houses

James Ivory can easily be a maddening director. He smothers his films with period finery, elegant nuances, he parades his actors and pursues his plots with the aristocratic mien of a grand seigneur. A film can get to be so well-bred that you feel like kicking its pants; Ivory runs that risk every time he adapts Henry James or E.M. Forster.

On the surface, *Mr and Mrs Bridge* (PG, Curzon Mayfair) should be particularly exasperating. Look at its ingredients: America's stifling upper middle-class during the Thirties and Forties, a filigree plot, stuffed with vignettes, Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman are a class act, certainly, though one to be wary of whenever the couple sniff Art. Yet *Mr and Mrs Bridge* constantly delights, surprises, even touches the heart. Ivory, working alongside his customary producer Ismail Merchant, mingles triumphantly with his material, balancing irony with sympathy, comedy with pathos.

Ruth Praver Jhabvala's script cleverly dovetails incidents from Evan S. Connell's two novels, *Mrs Bridge* (published in 1957) and *Mr Bridge* (published 12 years later). Mrs Bridge — marvelously enacted by Joanne Woodward — gets the lion's share. The epitome of the Country Club wife, she lives entirely in the shadow of her husband, a lawyer of impeccable rectitude. This part is given a distinguished performance by Newman — quietly humorous, poker-faced, his brow furrowed in horror contemplating the follies of others — although he leaves the centre stage graciously to his wife. The three children grow up, rebel, and leave; but Mrs Bridge remains, muttering "My heart", chattering about nothing, ever loofter.

Ivory's team dresses the sets

Geoff Brown reviews

*Mr and Mrs Bridge,*  
*The Russia House,*  
*Tilal, The Field,*  
*Pacific House, The*  
*Naked Kiss and*  
*Shock Corridor*

with its usual finesse. But beyond the museum collection of vintage radios and hats lie tangible people, brushing shoulders in a cosy world with misfortunes, despair and death. There is nothing patronising about Woodward's portrayal of the good, dull, Mrs Bridge; nothing brittle or cold-hearted about Ivory's mosaic of scenes. This must be one of the most pleasurable of all Merchant-Ivory productions.

Look! Michelle Pfeiffer is buying shoes in the Gum department store! And there's Sean Connery on the Moscow Metro! *The Russia House* (12, Plaza) takes a child's delight in its authentic Soviet settings: no other homegrown American feature uses quite so many. Glasnost prompted the venture; glasnost inspired the source material — John Le Carré's thriller about a maverick British publisher lured into the spy game after being handed a manuscript listing Russia's nuclear strength.

Yet the Cold War cannot be unfrozen at the flick of a switch. For all the smart joggling of time and place in Tom Stoppard's script — Lisbon one minute, Moscow and London the next — the fragments coalesce into the familiar spy formulae: dangerous meetings at picturesque places; thick

layers of subterfuge; the compromising love affair. "You are my only country now," Connery murmurs to Pfeiffer, the manuscript's Russian courier.

The film's surface sophistication blankets the old genre thrills. In the interests of seriousness, director Fred Schepisi plumps for talk, talk, talk. When Connery speaks, there is much to enjoy: the boozy publisher fits him like a glove. But when Michelle Pfeiffer pipes up, essaying an accent that would not have passed muster with Meryl Streep, we smell a box-office requirement rather than a character. Behind them stand Klaus Maria Brandauer and some cardboard Intelligence types, tipped off with a scenery-chewing Ken Russell *Russia House* audience should follow his lead. Chew the scenery; spit out the rest.

The formidable beautiful *Tilal* (PG, Renoir, Metro), filmed in Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta), represents cinema without fills. A man rides back to his village across a parched landscape, a solitary tree on the horizon. Characters speak with simple dignity. Slowly but surely we are pulled into the story about a painful clash between love and the dictates of "tilal" (the law).

This is the third feature of Jonisa Ouedraogo, director of *Yaaba*, who was born in Burkina 36 years ago. For the last ten years Ouedraogo has lived in Paris, and he knows how to package a film for Western audiences. Yet the clear, smooth surface and ear-tickling music never obscure the director's grasp of traditional African life and rituals.

The returning villager, Saga, discovers that his fiancée has been forced to marry his father. When their secret meetings are discov-



Class act: Paul Newman as the distinguished lawyer in the latest well-bred Merchant/Ivory production, *Mr and Mrs Bridge*

ered, Saga's brother is selected to kill him. He lets Saga escape, but the power of family bonds means that nobody enjoys a happy ending. In images of fierce simplicity, *Tilal* re-invents the age-old conflict between love and duty: the perfect enticement for anybody still frightened by the label of "African cinema".

Two weeks after *December Bride*, bogged down in Irish rain and mud, *The Field* (12, Curzon West End) invites us to wade through a similar landscape with Richard Harris, dressed in staff, greatest and patriarchal beard. Many might accept the invitation because the director and producer, Jim Sheridan and Noel Pearson, made *My Left Foot*. Their new feature shares the Irish roots: the source is a play by John B. Keane, a man much garlanded on his home turf. Yet the tone is far different. Where Christy Brown's life demonstrated success against the odds, Harris's raging farmer — destroyed in a fight for the emerald field he nurtured almost

from bare rocks — strains to achieve the tragic shriek of Irish legends, or even *King Lear*.

Sheridan makes a good enough job of fitting Keane's play for the screen. We are marched along cliffs, drenched and wind-swept; we squelch through mud. But the

appears strangely posturing and unedifying.

Among Hollywood's British exiles, John Schlesinger is not at the moment having much luck. He makes films, but they neither light up the box-office, nor display personal commitment. In *Pacific*

but the film's melodramatic rum-pede ruins their status as identity figures for anxious home-owners.

Finally, to the past. For a week, the Everyman cinema presents a double-bill of Samuel Fuller's *Shock Corridor* and *The Naked Kiss* (15). Who but Fuller would weave a story around prostitution, handicapped children, small-town hypocrisy, and child abuse? That is the world of *The Naked Kiss*. Who but Fuller would send a journalist desperate for the Pulitzer Prize under cover into a mental asylum, while his striptease girlfriend frenzies for his own sanity? That is *Shock Corridor*.

Fuller's taste remains inimitable and his plots suggest tabloid journalism, but his urgent visual style — much enhanced on this occasion by the black-and-white magic of cameraman Stanley Cortez — turns his best films into apocalyptic yells about the human condition. *The Naked Kiss* is slightly sabotaged by cringing sentiment; but *Shock Corridor* has lost none of its power.

*Beyond the museum collection of vintage radios and hats lie tangible people, brushing shoulders in a cosy world with misfortune, despair and death.*

stage machinery keeps poking through. At peak moments, the dialogue collapses into declamatory clumps. Performers press the right buttons — blind rage from a grizzled Harris, idiot capers from a gap-toothed John Hurt, bland charm from Tom Berenger (the American outsider who ignites the tragedy). Yet they obstinately remain actors acting, flaunting their art in picturesque dress. After *My Left Foot*, *The Field*

*Heights* (15, Odeon Haymarket) he grapples with a thriller about a San Francisco couple whose house and sanity are threatened by a psychopathic tenant. Schlesinger matches his craftsman's skills to a shipshod script. Contrivances rear up like gorgons, while tension is punctured by making the tenant — a sinister Michael Keaton — unhinged from the outset. Matthew Modine and Melanie Griffith make a sweet pair of innocents;

## BRIEFING

## Charity in translation

A CHARITY performance by a Soviet theatre company will be held at the Queen's Theatre on Sunday to raise money for a memorial fund for Nadia Samoilova, the two-and-a-half-year-old Soviet girl who died last week after coming to Britain for a heart operation. Nadia, the granddaughter of Samoilov, a leading artist with the Mayakovsky Theatre in Moscow, died at Harefield Hospital after the operation. Proceeds from the performance of David Pownall's play, *Master Class*, will help set up a memorial fund for



Lang: new chief executive of the British Library

Nadia and pay the hospital bills. The production, by the Vakhtangov Theatre Company, will be in Russian with

simultaneous translation from Timothy West.

## On the books

BRIAN Lang, the National Trust's 45-year-old director of public affairs, is to be the next chief executive of the British Library, succeeding Kenneth Cooper in June. Before he went to the National Trust three years ago, Lang was the first secretary of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, where he earned respect for his energetic and informed espousal of the fund's role as, in his words, "the heritage fire brigade". Lang will lead the British Library into its new £450 million north London home at St Pancras in 1993.

## Direct chance

ASPIRING theatre directors take note: entries are now being invited for the Young Director's Award. The award, which has been running for five years, provides one of the few opportunities for people under 35 to gain valuable experience directing at the Battersea Arts Centre, one of London's leading independent theatres. The 1991 winner, who will be chosen from workshops on May 25-26, will direct a play of his or her choice with a professional cast in November. Applications, which close on April 3, can be obtained from the Battersea Arts Centre (071-223 6557).

## Beastly struggle

FEW Broadway shows in recent years face as difficult a struggle for survival as *La Bête*, which marks the American debut of director Richard Jones and designer Richard Hudson, currently represented in London by the musical *Into the Woods*, which closes this week. In its final week of previews, David Hirsch's play *La Bête* performed to a 33 per cent capacity, with virtually no advance sales. New plays without stars almost always fail on Broadway; this one is written in rhymed couplets and stars an unknown, Tom McGowan.

## Crafty move

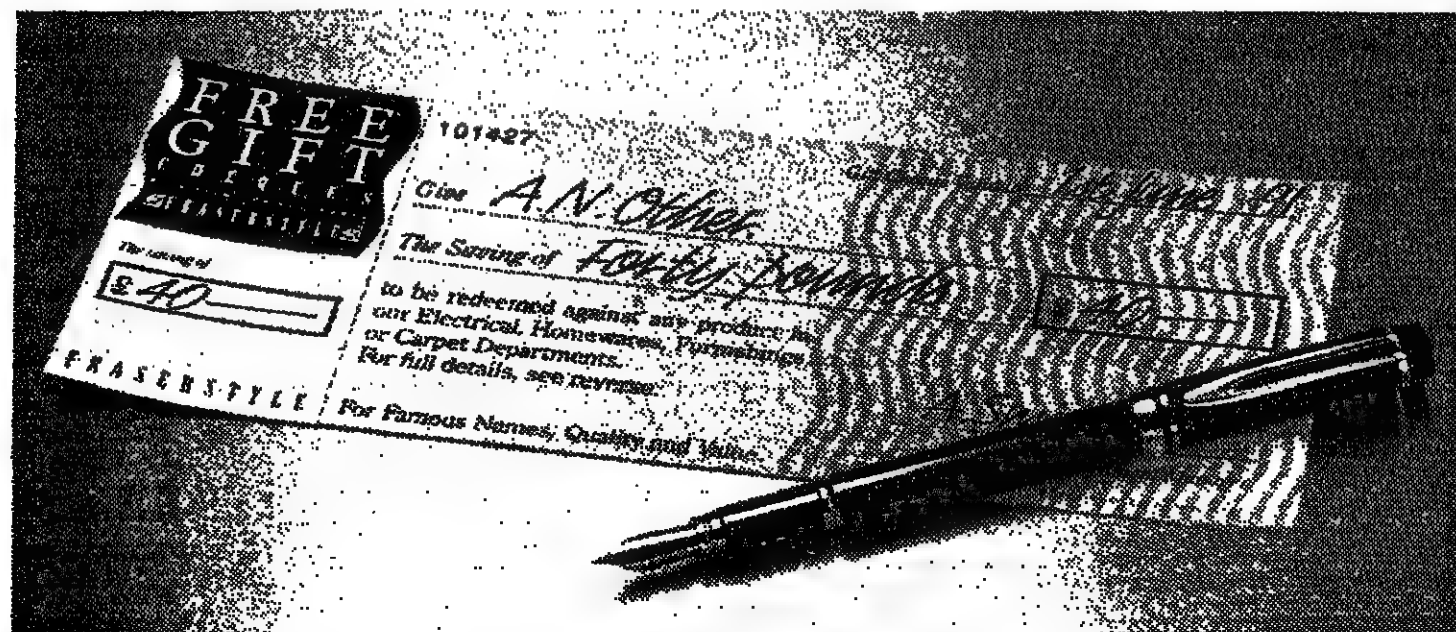
SIR Nigel Brookes, silver-smith and chairman of the Trafalgar House property and shipping group, is to be the next chairman of the Crafts Council. He succeeds Sir Nevil Macready on March 1 and shortly afterwards will lead the council into its new home in north London where the national crafts centre opens in September.

## Last chance...

THE full-length ballet *Manon* is one of Sir Kenneth MacMillan's most popular creations for Covent Garden (071-240 1066) and Sylvie Guillem's account of the title role is gripping, as is Laurent Hilaire's portrait of Des Grieux. They rise to an overwhelming emotion of climax in the last act: final performance tomorrow night.



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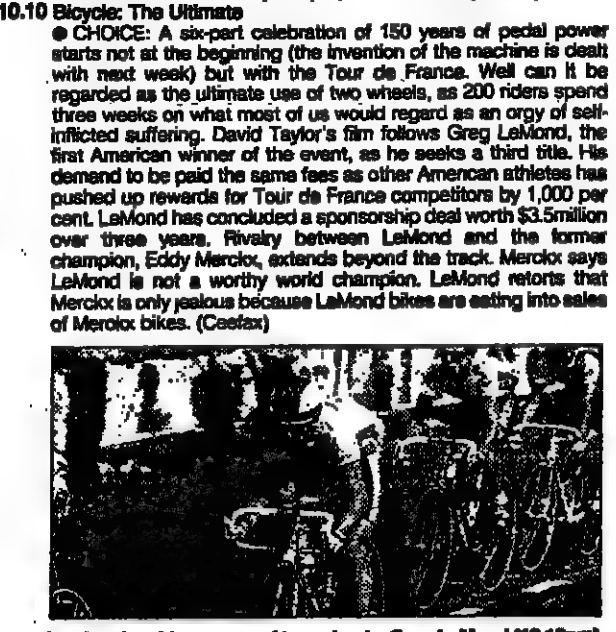
**6.00** Ceebeak  
**6.30** BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer  
**9.15** Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk hosts a discussion on staying with partners in sickness and in health **9.55** Regional news and weather  
**10.00** News, regional news and weather **10.05** Children's BBC, introduced by Simon Parkin  
**10.30** Dish of the Day. Culinary advice from Rosemary Moon **10.40** Brainwaves. Quiz show  
**11.00** News, regional news and weather **11.05** People Today with Doh Jones and Adrian Miles  
**12.00** News, regional news and weather **12.05** Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club **12.20** Scene Today. Live entertainment from Robbie Mill **12.55** Regional news and weather  
**1.00** One O'Clock News and weather  
**1.30** Neighbours. (Ceebeak) **1.50** Going for Gold. Quiz show with Henry Kelly  
**2.15** Film: *Staying Together* (1983). Television film, based on the experiences of its writer and producer, Chris Beaumont, about 18-year-old Jimmy Bartlett (Lee Montgomery), who is left to look after his young brother and sisters after the death of his widowed mother. The treatment is sentimental and optimistic: not for nothing was the film originally called *Happy Endings*. Directed by Jerry Thorpe. (Ceebeak)  
**3.50** Dooby Duck's Truck **3.55** Gordon the Gopher. Philip Schofield discusses Gordon's film secrets as he gets fit the Gopher way **4.10** Jackanory. Victoria Wood with part four of David Dahl's classic story *Martha* **4.20** Fantastic Max. Cartoon adventures of a bionic baby (Dr. 4.30) **4.30** Daily Highlights. Comedian Alan Heap does his best to relate to customers in the puppet comedy set in a seaside hotel.  
**4.55** Newsround **5.05** Blue Peter. Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and Diane-Louise Jordan invite viewers to choose names for Bonnie the golden Labrador's five-week-old puppies. (Ceebeak)  
**5.35** Neighbours (r). (Ceebeak) Northern Ireland: Sportsweek **5.40** Inside Ulster  
**6.00** Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather **6.30** Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours  
**7.00** Top of the Pops introduced by Mark Goodier. (Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1)  
**7.30** EastEnders. It is the day of Phil's court case and the Mitchells are confident they will make the correct impression on the magistrates. (Ceebeak)  
**8.00** Tomorrow's World. Judith Hann predicts a chocolate's dream - unlimited cream buns and no weight gain. Peter Macann visits Littlehampton, where the council has found a novel way of cleansing the beach of toxic waste. Plus an electronic box that makes it easier to get help during a car breakdown



The terrors of St Swithins: Layton, Davies, Nedwell (8.30pm)

**8.30** Doctor at the Top: Sine of the Father. Whatever became of those young student doctors Duncan Waring, Paul Collier and Dick Stuart-Clark, the terrors of St Swithins in the Swinging Sixties? This new comedy series catches up with the varied fortunes of the three medical friends still played by Robin Nedwell, George Layton and Geoffrey Davies. (Ceebeak) Northern Ireland: Spotlight  
**9.00** Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceebeak) Regional news and weather  
**9.35** Open All Hours. Gentle Roy Clarke comedy starring Ronnie Barker as the miserly, stammering, lusty northern shopkeeper, with David Jason as his snivelling nephew (r). Northern Ireland: The Corner House  
**10.05** Question Time. Peter Sissons chairs the live debate from London's Barbican. Among the guests are Dr Garret Fitzgerald and MPs Kenneth Baker and John Prescott  
**11.05** Heartbeat. Feature-length pilot of a new American drama series set in a Los Angeles medical clinic founded by two women doctors (Kate Mulgrew and Laura Johnson) and dedicated to the needs of female patients. An ambitious executive (Joan Chen from *Twins Peaks*) is unwillingly confined to bed to avoid the premature birth of her child. A cancer patient comes to terms with her illness and a childhood couple seek help from a family specialist  
**12.40am** Weather. News. International Squash **1.00** News and weather

**8.45** Open University: The Physics of Matter - How Low Can You Go? Ends at 9.15  
**9.00** News **9.15** Westminster  
**9.00** Daytime on Two. Schools' half-term repeats  
**2.00** News and weather followed by You and Me (r)  
**2.15** Bowls. From The Guild Hall, Preston, Dougie Donnelly presents the day's matches that will complete the line-up for the singles semi-finals in the Midland Bank world indoor championships  
**3.00** News and weather followed by Westminster Live **3.50** News, regional news and weather  
**4.00** Bowls. Further coverage from the Guild Hall, Preston, as the pairs tournament moves into its semi-final stages  
**5.30** Holiday 91. A special edition devoted to Greece (r). (Ceebeak)  
**6.00** Film: *Tarzan and the Jungle Boy* (1988). Former American athlete Mike Henry dons the lionheart as the branch-swinging hero. He is persuaded by a photo-journalist to help her find a geologist's son who has been lost for six years and becomes involved with leading tribesmen. With Peter Johnson and Aliza Gur. Standard fare, directed by Robert Gordon **7.25** Anticipation Now. The Nole (r)  
**7.35** First Sight: A Network Under Scrutiny. Andrew Harvey reports on how British Rail's Network SouthEast and InterCity services are coping with the task of transporting half a million commuters every day, and looks at how the service shapes up against rail networks in The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, The British Empire, England, Midlands, Republic of Ireland, and the former Soviet Union  
**8.05** Bleak House. The final episode of Arthur Horowitz's masterly dramatisation of Charles Dickens' classic novel, with Daniel Craig in fine form as John Jarvis. (r). (Ceebeak)  
**9.00** David M. DNA. Inventive space spoof by Rob Grant and Doug Naylor, now in its fourth series and showing no sign of flagging. The crew discovers a machine that can transform living things by rewriting their DNA. The dwarves are unsure whether this is a good or bad thing, until later's cury assumes near-human form. (Ceebeak)  
**9.30** 40 Minutes: A Cruel Ritual  
**9.35** CHOICE: Six years ago revelations about female circumcision in a 40 Minutes film by Louise Pantano led to an all-party motion in the House of Commons and legislation banning the practice. In this new film Pantano returns to the subject, reporting that despite the ban young girls are still being circumcised and suggesting that the "cruel ritual" may even be on the increase. Filmed in the streets for fear of being ostracised by their communities, women describe how at the ages of seven or eight they went through the terrible pain of being circumcised without an anaesthetic and how the operation has affected their lives. Female circumcision is a custom imported from east Africa, where it is deeply embedded in the culture. A group of Somali women in Britain say they will continue to defy the law. But there are signs that younger members of the British African community are prepared to rebel. (Ceebeak)  
**10.10** Biocyte: The Ultimate  
**10.15** CHOICE: A six-part celebration of 150 years of pedal power starts not at the beginning (the invention of the machine is dealt with next week) but with the Tour de France. Well can it be regarded as the ultimate use of two wheels, as 200 riders spend three weeks on what most of us would regard as an arduous self-inflicted suffering. David Taylor's film follows Greg LeMond, the first American winner of the event, as he seeks a third title. His demand to be paid the same fees as other American athletes has pushed up rewards for Tour de France competitors by 1,000 per cent. LeMond has concluded a sponsorship deal worth \$3.5million over three years. Rivalry between LeMond and the former champion, Eddy Merckx, extends beyond the track. Merckx says LeMond is not a worthy world champion. LeMond retorts that Merckx is only jealous because LeMond bikes are eating into sales of Merckx bikes. (Ceebeak)  
**10.30** Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman  
**11.15** The Late Show. Arts and media magazine  
**11.35** Weather  
**12.00** Weekend Outlook. A preview of the weekend's Open University programmes. Ends at 12.10am



Making the ultimate use of two wheels: Greg LeMond (10.10pm)

**8.00** TV-am  
**9.25** Gulf Report **9.40** Thames News and weather  
**9.45** The Time... The Place... John Stapleton hosts another edition of the travelling discussion show  
**10.30** This Morning with Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley  
**12.05** The Riddlers. For the very young **12.25** Thames News and weather  
**12.30** News with John Sutherland. Weather  
**1.20** Home and Away **1.50** A Country Practice  
**2.20** TV Weekly. Anne Diamond takes a look behind the scenes of ITV's most popular programme and Barry Took selects his favourite golden oldies **2.50** Give Us A Clue. Celebrity charades  
**3.15** ITN News headlines **3.20** Thames News headlines **3.25** The Young Doctors. Australian drama set in a large city hospital  
**3.55** Owl TV. Michaels Strachan finds out what needs to be done to save the British other 4.20 Cartoon **4.30** Spatz. Children's drama series set in a fast food restaurant  
**5.00** Home and Away (r)  
**5.30** News with Carol Barnes (Oracle)  
**5.55** Thames Help with news of King's Cross's Calthorpe Project  
**6.00** Blockbusters  
**6.30** Thames News presented by Andrew Gardner and Liz Pike  
**7.00** Emmerdale. Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales (Oracle)  
**7.30** News. Another fly-on-the-wall report from St James's Hospital in Leeds  
**8.00** Gulf Report followed by The Bill: Too Many Chiefs. Inspector Monroe (Colin Tarrant) launches an enquiry into a bell home after the death of one of its young occupants. (Oracle)  
**8.30** This Week: The Price of Terror. A documentary investigation into the financial costs of protecting the public and VIPs from acts of outrage. (Oracle)



Case of the vanishing lady: Hardwicke and Switz (8.30pm)

**8.00** The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes  
**8.30** CHOICE: The stories may be getting thinner as Granada works through the Conan Doyle canon, but the treatment is as surefooted as ever. In his seventh year as the best Holmes television has yet given us, Jeremy Brett has become the part just as Joan Hickson became Miss Marple. Accept no substitutes. Apart from a face which is marvellously expressive, even when it is not obviously expressing anything, the essence of Brett's performance is that it resists the temptation to send the character up. Edward Hardwicke's Watson is in similar vein. Tonight's case is one of the less gripping but it has a solid script by the reliable T. R. Bowen, delectable Lakeland scenery and a top-notch supporting cast headed by Cheryl Campbell as the eccentric Lady Frances, whose vanishing acts form the basis of the puzzle. (Oracle)  
**10.00** News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Julia Somerville. (Oracle)  
**10.35** Thames News and weather  
**10.45** The City Programme. Pricing the generators - will the yield have the power to attract investors? And "intellectual property" - can the City put a price on creativity?  
**11.15** 01. Includes Joss Ackland's review of *The Russian House*, starring Sean Connery and Michael Peiffer, and Ben Elton and Dawn French, author and star of *Silly Cow*, discussing the play  
**11.45** Gulf Report followed by Prisoner: Cell Block H. Female villains do porridge in the Australian drama series  
**12.40am** Contacts. Another opportunity for people with similar interests and outlooks to get together via television's version of the personal column  
**1.10** Judith Krantz's I'll Take Manhattan. Part two of the predictable American mini-series about the battle for a publishing empire (r)  
**3.00** Hardback. Mervyn Cooke and Charlie and Raz investigate a device-worshipping cult  
**4.00** Thriller's Company. American sitcom  
**4.30** America's Top Ten (r)  
**5.00** Videofashion. Clothes and style magazine (r)  
**5.30** ITN Morning News with Anne Leuchars. Ends at 6.00

**6.00** The Channel Four Daily  
**9.25** School  
**12.00** News summary  
**12.05** The Parliament Programme introduced by Sue Cameron  
**12.30** Business Daily. Financial and business news service  
**1.00** Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children  
**2.00** The Ancient Art of Cookery. The Tudor Menu at Cotehele House. Sir Roy Strong takes us through six centuries of cooking, while expert Sara Parson-Williams recreates a complete menu of Tudor times that modern cooks will find simple to follow. In this programme they visit 15th century Cotehele House, near Plymouth, where the kitchen is preserved in near-perfect condition (r)  
**2.30** Cutting Edge: Winning Fortunes. Repeat of Monday's documentary about football pools winners and how well they manage their suddenly-acquired fortunes (r)  
**3.30** Land Of Hope. Episode seven of the Australian series chronicling the lives of one Irish-Australian working-class family from the late 1800s to the 1970s (r)  
**4.30** Countdown. Words and numbers game hosted by Richard Whitley  
**5.00** The Adventures of Tintin. Episode 12 of *The Treasure of Rackham the Red* (r)  
**5.05** The Oprah Winfrey Show. Oprah's guests are wives and secretaries verbally wrestling over their rights to the husband  
**6.00** Kate & Allie. *Too Late The Rebel*. American comedy with two divorced mothers who share a Greenwich Village apartment (r)  
**6.30** Deemond's. Razor-sharp wit and cutting humour from the black barber's shop in southeast London (r) (Teletext)  
**7.00** Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi (Teletext)  
**7.50** Comment followed by Weather  
**8.00** Spacewatch Earth: The New Global Geography. The first in a new series of ten programmes using the latest satellite technology to present a global geography of our planet. Remarkable satellite images, together with original film shot worldwide, are used to examine the interrelation of the elements, the landscape and in this first programme, the people who inhabit "spacewatch Earth". Narrated by Ian Holm



Strained relationship: Diane Cuck and Nigel Terry (8.30pm)

**8.30** The Orchid House: The Return of the Master  
**8.35** CHOICE: Horace Ove directs a handsome rendering of Phyllis Shand Allfrey's autobiographical novel about a troubled white family in the Caribbean between the two world wars. Diane Cuck and Nigel Terry play the parents of three daughters, first seen as small girls as their father returns from the western front in 1918. The strained relationship between mother and father and his growing addiction to opium are the main elements in a leisurely first episode, which mainly serves to establish character and mood and sprinkle clues to the future. It also introduces the sumptuous scenery of Dominica, which seems permanently enshrouded in an orange sun. Frances Barber, Kate Butler and Elizabeth Hurley join the cast next week as the daughters, now grown up, whose return to the island after a long period away triggers a series of startling developments. (Teletext)  
**9.45** Affairs Of The Heart: The Heart Has Reasons. The first of a six-part series on how the health of the heart is central to our spiritual and physical wellbeing. The series begins with Mark Kessel's film that traces the links between heart disease and a symbol in our culture and the organ which can suffer failure or an attack (Teletext)  
**10.45** True Stories: H2 Worker. Powerful documentary exposing the exploitation of itinerant Jamaican workers by the Florida sugar cane industry. For six months of the year, more than 10,000 men from Jamaica and other Caribbean islands undertake the brutal work of cutting sugar cane by hand, a job so physically hard and poorly paid that Americans refuse to do it. The film focuses on the lives of the workers and was shot secretly in its entirety  
**11.55** A View In Politics. Vincent Hanna and Andrew Ransmay introduce a review of the week's events in the Commons, Lords and European parliament. Includes Channel 4 News - Midnight Special. Ends at 12.00am

## TV VARIATIONS

**ANGLIA**  
As London except 8.00pm-8.30pm Blockbusters 8.00 Home and Away 8.25-7.00 News 10.00 Regional News 11.20-11.30 News 11.30-11.40 News 11.40-11.50 News 11.50-12.00 News 12.00-12.10 News 12.10-12.20 News 12.20-12.30 News 12.30-12.40 News 12.40-12.50 News 12.50-1.00 News 1.00-1.10 News 1.10-1.20 News 1.20-1.30 News 1.30-1.40 News 1.40-1.50 News 1.50-2.00 News 2.00-2.10 News 2.10-2.20 News 2.20-2.30 News 2.30-2.40 News 2.40-2.50 News 2.50-3.00 News 3.00-3.10 News 3.10-3.20 News 3.20-3.30 News 3.30-3.40 News 3.40-3.50 News 3.50-4.00 News 4.00-4.10 News 4.10-4.20 News 4.20-4.30 News 4.30-4.40 News 4.40-4.50 News 4.50-5.00 News 5.00-5.10 News 5.10-5.20 News 5.20-5.30 News 5.30-5.40 News 5.40-5.50 News 5.50-6.00 News 6.00-6.10 News 6.10-6.20 News 6.20-6.30 News 6.30-6.40 News 6.40-6.50 News 6.50-7.00 News 7.00-7.10 News 7.10-7.20 News 7.20-7.30 News 7.30-7.40 News 7.40-7.50 News 7.50-8.00 News 8.00-8.10 News 8.10-8.20 News 8.20-8.30 News 8.30-8.40 News 8.40-8.50 News 8.50-9.00 News 9.00-9.10 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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-30  
● LAW 29  
● SPORT 31-34

# BUSINESS

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21 1991

Business Editor  
John Bell

## Sky TV's sport deal outlawed

THE European Commission has outlawed as a violation of fair competition rules an agreement between Sky Television and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) that provided their shared satellite channel Eurosport with exclusive rights to broadcast major sporting events (Melinda Wittstock writes).

Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, said Eurosport in its present form violated Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome. He said the deal between Sky and the EBU, which groups together 39 European television networks including the BBC, enabled them to cooperate when they should be competing, while at the same time denying access to sports programmes by other satellite or cable channels.

The ruling has immediate effect and will allow Screen Sport, Eurosport's rival, and other channels to compete on an equal basis for the rights to European sporting events. A separate investigation by EC anti-trust officials will probe the exclusive nature of the EBU itself.

Sky Television, which is in talks to sell its 50 per cent stake in Eurosport, said last night that its lawyers were studying the implications of the ruling and that it was too early to comment.

Details, page 34

## Yorkshire gains

Pre-tax profits of Yorkshire Chemicals were restrained by currencies in the year ended December and only rose from £9.6 million to £10.8 million on a 16.5 per cent increase in turnover to £81.6 million. The final dividend of 9p (8.5p) makes 13.5p (12p).

Tempos, page 27

## THE POUND

US dollar 1.9485 (-0.0040)  
German mark 2.9150 (+0.0029)  
Exchange index 94.2 (same)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1826.2 (-12.3)  
FT-SE 100 2296.8 (-15.6)  
New York Dow Jones 2902.97 (-29.21)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 2618.79 (+31.81)

## MAJOR CHANGES

**RISERS:**  
Johnson Cleaners +40p (+18p)  
Wagon Ind +34p (+10p)  
Commercial Union +25p (+10p)  
General Accident +53p (+11p)  
A Kensington +25p (+12p)  
SA Breweries +22p (+15p)  
Providence +44p (+24p)  
Scrodders +74p (+13p)  
**FALLS:**  
Sovereign -72p (-13p)  
Reed Int -30p (-12p)  
Grand Met -714p (-18p)  
Hepworth -302p (-12p)  
Glaxo -338p (-32p)  
Hawker Siddeley -491p (-18p)  
Trusthouse Forte -245p (-10p)  
Kwik Save -52p (-16p)  
Broken Hill -410p (-12p)  
Yorkshire Chem -382p (-10p)  
Community Hospital -181p (-10p)  
Sun Alliance -365p (-9p)

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 13 1/4%  
3-month interbank 13 1/2%  
3-month deposit bill 12 1/2-12 3/4%  
US Prime Rate 9%  
Federal Funds 7%  
3-month Treasury Bill 5 9/8-5 9/16%  
30-year bonds 9 1/2-9 5/8%

## CURRENCIES

**London:**  
C \$1 9485  
C DM2 9150  
C Sfr 2 4892  
C FF9 5072  
C Yen 255 43  
C ECU 10 105482  
C ECU 12 121540  
**New York:**  
C \$1 9480  
C DM1 4975  
C Sfr 2 4895  
C FF9 50810  
C Yen 251 80  
C SDR 10 735355  
C SDR 11 353888

## GOLD

London Plating: AM \$383.75 pm \$384.65  
close \$384.40-384.90 (186.60-187.10)  
New York: Comex \$386.15-386.65

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) \$18.25 bbl (\$17.45)  
Dance latest trading price

## TOURIST RATES

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia S	2.55	Spain	16.00
Austria S	2.55	Switzerland S	2.55
Belgium F	2.40	Sweden S	2.55
Canada S	2.35	Switzerland S	2.55
Denmark D	7.45	Switzerland S	2.55
France F	10.31	Switzerland S	2.55
Germany D	9.95	Switzerland S	2.55
Greece Dr	301	Switzerland S	2.55
Hong Kong S	15.70	Switzerland S	2.55
India Rupee	2.55	Switzerland S	2.55
Italy Lira	2.55	Switzerland S	2.55
Japan Yen	9.45	Switzerland S	2.55
Netherlands Gld	11.89	Switzerland S	2.55
Norway Kr	2.55	Switzerland S	2.55
Portugal Esc	205.25	Switzerland S	2.55
South Africa Rand	12.50	Switzerland S	2.55
Spain Ptas	166.60	Switzerland S	2.55
Sweden S	11.36	Switzerland S	2.55
Switzerland Fr	2.55	Switzerland S	2.55
Turkey Lira	600	Switzerland S	2.55
USA \$	2.55	Switzerland S	2.55
Yugoslavia Dnr	34.00	Switzerland S	2.55

Rates for small denominations bank only are supplied by Reuters Bank RLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 130.2 (January)

## Halifax gives 'clear lead' over rate cuts

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE Halifax, Britain's largest building society, added to pressures on the Bank of England and the government by cutting its mortgage rate for new borrowers by three-quarters of a point to 13.75 per cent.

The building society, declaring yesterday that it wished to give "a clear lead" on lower mortgage rates, added that existing borrowers were virtually guaranteed a similar cut when base rates fell.

The new rate will hold only

until the end of April, however, if there is no change in base rates.

The society said that it will keep the situation under review, but feels there are "clear indicators that there will be a further cut".

Jim Birrell, chief executive of the Halifax, said: "We want to give new borrowers the benefit of lower interest rates as soon as possible and set a clear lead for rates for existing borrowers when base rates do fall further."

He added: "Lower mortgage rates will pave the way for a

gradual recovery in the housing market."

The rate drop means new borrowers with a £40,000 endowment mortgage will pay £20 less a month.

However, 1.3 million of Halifax's 1.7 million borrowers whose mortgage rates are reviewed annually had their yearly rate set at 14.5 per cent in February, and there is no indication yet that this will fall.

A Halifax spokesman said: "The scheme envisages a 14.5 per cent rate for the year but we are keeping this under review."

In a further incentive, first-time buyers at the Halifax will be guaranteed a rate of 12.5 per cent until the end of this year.

Other leading lenders say they have no plans to follow the Halifax's lead and are waiting for a further cut in interest rates.

A spokeswoman for the Abbey National said: "We haven't changed our line. We have said that if rates come down we will cut our rates by 0.75 of a point for everybody. We would welcome a cut to 13 per cent."

A spokesman for the Woolwich Building Society said: "We want to see rates clarified before we make a move on rates. We don't want to become a hostage to fortune, although we share the Halifax's optimism about a rate cut."

The Nationwide Building Society, the second largest society, also has no plans to change the rate for its 400,000 customers. The Nationwide set an annual rate of 14.5 per cent at the beginning of February.

In the City, some analysts saw the Halifax giving fresh support to the demands for further cuts in the base rate.

Gerard Lyons, the chief economist at DKB International, said cuts, or promises of cuts, by leading building societies "can only add to the pressure for the authorities to cut, though I don't think it's going to be the catalyst that forces them to cut rates again."

John Wigglesworth, analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said that as Britain's biggest mortgage lender, the Halifax's position was enough to increase the pressure for rate cuts.

Michael Lever, of Smith New Court, was more sceptical. He saw the move by the Halifax largely as a "marketing ploy to try to increase market share".

## The recession is confirmed

By COLIN NAKHROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT figures gave official confirmation of the recession gripping Britain and aroused market hopes of a fresh cut in interest rates only a week after Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, pared half a point off base rates.

The need for lower interest rates was underscored by a welter of data that indicated little chance of any early lifting of the economic gloom. Credit growth was weaker than expected, manufacturers have destocked sharply and construction orders tumbled.

The Bank of England sought to dampen expectations of an imminent easing, signalling strongly through its market operations that it wanted base rate to stay at 13.5 per cent.

Money market dealers were unconvinced and three-month interbank interest rates closed 1/2 cent, with dealers looking for a half-point base rate cut before the Budget. Amid mounting evidence of the second worst recession since the second world war, the domestic case for cutting base rate is beyond doubt, but membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism constrains policy.

Gross domestic product data showed a provisional seasonally adjusted fall of 0.9 per cent in the final quarter of last year, after a revised 1.3 per cent decline in the third. Final-quarter GDP was 1.1 per cent below the same quarter of 1989, making it the first year-on-year fall since the second quarter of 1981. Service industries saw a decline of 0.5 per cent in the final quarter. Though Mr Lamont has acknowledged a recession,

the government figures confirm that the economy has shrunk for two consecutive quarters.

Manufacturers slashed stocks by a provisional £911 million in the final quarter, the largest quarterly destocking since the end of 1980. In the third quarter, stocks rose by £137 million, suggesting involuntary stockbuilding. The evidence of large-scale destocking indicates a worsening recession, but should improve companies' cashflow.

Construction industry orders in the fourth quarter were 19 per cent down on the same quarter in 1989. Overall orders last year were 15 per cent below the previous year.

Money supply figures showed a sharp slowdown in lending by the banks and building societies. This increased by £3.1 billion in January, for the slowest annual growth since June 1982.

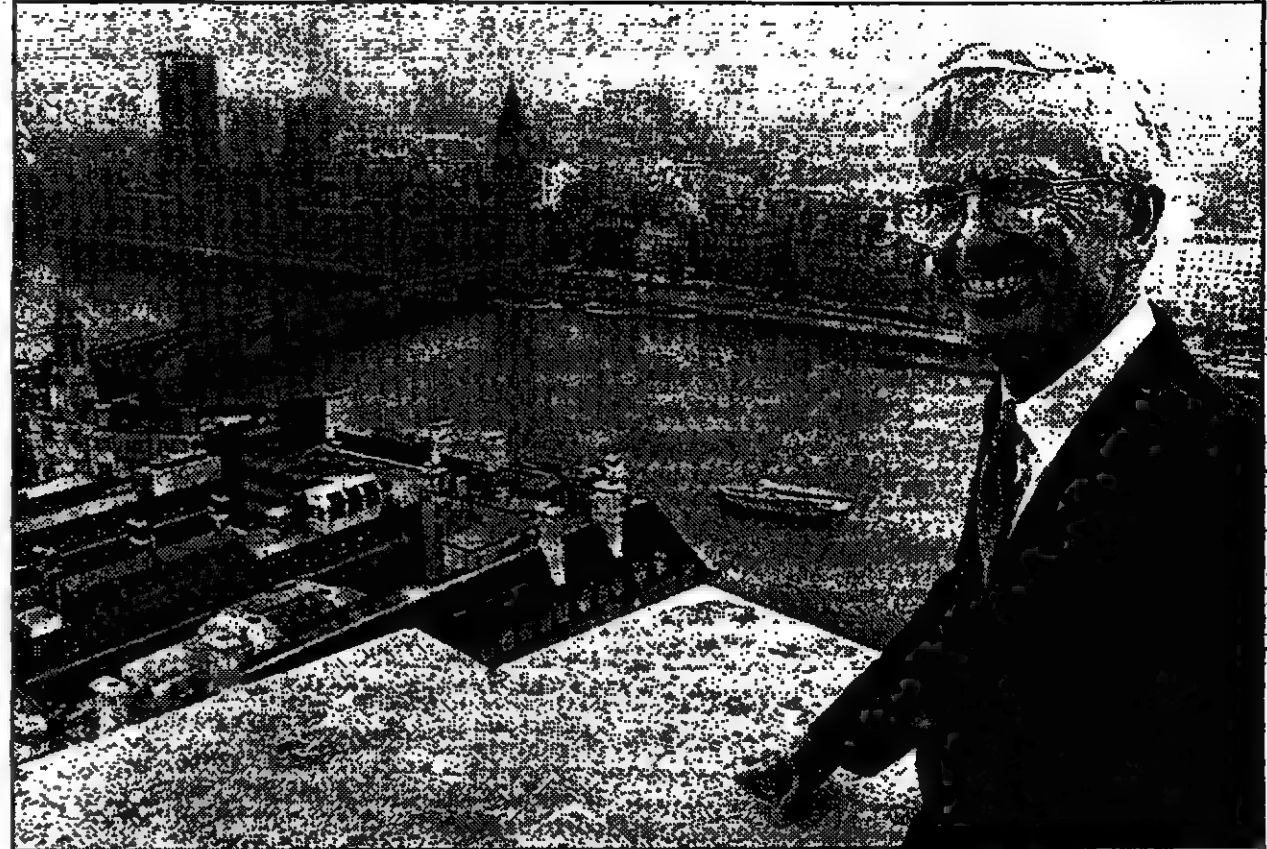
M0, the officially targeted narrow money measure, rose a seasonally adjusted 0.5 per cent last month for an annual rate 3.5 per cent. Though faster than the 2.7 annual rise in December, weekly data suggest deceleration again this month. Clearing bank lending to the private sector fell £51 million in January after a £173 million rise in December.

The pound gained over a quarter pitting against the mark, ending at DM2.9149, its lowest point, however, against the dollar, slipping to \$1.9485 from \$1.9525. Sterling held just above its 180,589 lower limit against the Spanish peseta at the bottom of the ERM.

Comment, page 27

## Shell to spend £6bn a year

ALAN WALLER



Long view: Sir Peter Holmes says investment will be spread round the world but focus on Southeast Asia

## Greenspan forecasts modest US recovery

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

ALAN Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, predicted a moderate recovery in the American economy in coming quarters unless a prolonged war in the Gulf and problems in the banking system worsen the recession.

He said this year's inflation rate is likely to be one of the lowest in recent years. The latest published core rate of inflation year-on-year was 5.6 per cent.

In his semi-annual testimony on monetary policy before the Senate banking committee, Mr Greenspan said that events in the Middle East meant "it would be most unwise to rule out the possibility that the recession may become more serious than is already apparent".

The Fed chairman added: "The balance of forces does appear to suggest that this downturn could well prove shorter and shallower than most prior postwar recessions."

Mr Greenspan also said the dollar has shown "unwelcome weakening tendencies at times recently". His comments came after the labour department reported that consumer prices rose a higher than expected 0.4 per cent last month, despite a drop in oil costs after the start of the Gulf war.

The increase translates into a 5.5 per cent annual rate, which is outside the Fed's anticipated rise of between 3.25 per cent and 4 per cent this year. But it was below last year's 6.2 per cent increase, which was inflated mainly by higher energy prices resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The underlying core rate of inflation, excluding the volatile energy and food sectors, rose 0.8 per cent.

Mr Greenspan said that the reduction of cost and price pressure "has given the Federal Reserve scope to move aggressively to counter contractionary influences on the economy without contributing to market concerns about the inflation outlook."

His comments were widely interpreted as a signal that the Fed has the scope to further lower interest rates if desired.

## Electricity chief will curb prices

By MARTIN WALLER

ELECTRICITY prices will not be allowed to rise by the 13 per cent predicted by some commentators, the man in charge of regulating the newly privatised industry said, although rises in excess of inflation may be countenanced. Professor Stephen Littlechild, the director-general of electricity supply, is concerned about the reports because of their "adverse effect on consumers".

He criticised one suggestion that the annual rises (to be announced for the year from April 1) could technically go as high as 21 per cent. He said in a letter to the chairman of the 12 regional electricity distribution companies: "A tariff increase of 13 per cent, let alone one of 21 per cent, is considerably above the level compatible with the supplementary restrictions on supply charges in your licence."

"These require you to use your best endeavours to keep average unit revenues to a level determined by movements in the retail price index."

Inflation was running at 10.9 per cent year-on-year in

October, while there had been a further increase in the fossil fuel levy, which subsidises other forms of electricity generation, such as nuclear power, of 0.4 points. Professor Littlechild said: "Those factors will permit a significant tariff increase this year, but not one of 13 per cent."

None of the 12 has yet indicated how much prices will be raised and the issue is clearly a politically sensitive one.

John Wakeham, the energy secretary, will tomorrow name the price at which National Power and PowerGen, the country's two electricity generators, will be sold after the latest round of preliminary bids from City institutions suggested the shares could be sold on a yield of 6.1 per cent.

This is substantially below predictions and 0.2 points below that reached in the first round of bids in the "book-building" process being used to sell the generators. But the actual yield expected to be a little higher, to attract the private investor.

Inflation was running at 10.9 per cent year-on-year in

Comment, page 27

Tempos, page 27

## World trade talks resume

From GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

WORLD trade reform talks, halted last December by farm subsidy disputes, were revived in Geneva yesterday.

Trade negotiators at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) meeting agreed a formula under which European Community and American negotiators could continue to debate cuts in farm support.

The formula, however, does little more than restart talks where they were broken off at the end of last year, when the Community's offer of subsidy cuts failed to satisfy America

and the Cairns Group of exporting countries.

The Community has now agreed, according to Arthur Dunkel, the director-general of GATT, that detailed commitments will have to be made on reducing domestic and export subsidies and import barriers. Rufus Yerxa, the American ambassador to the talks, said: "I think we are now seeing for the first time some signs of real progress in the agricultural negotiations."

In Strasbourg yesterday, the European Commission considered the first draft of this

year's agricultural price package. The two current rounds of talks on farm subsidies in the Community are both politically tense and both liable to influence the GATT meeting.

The EC price-setting round also takes place against the background of fears that the Community's farm budget, accounting for 60 per cent of all EC spending, is out of control once more.

The Commission was understood to be discussing a 7 per cent reduction in cereal supports and a 2 per cent cut in the dairy quota.

## The Blue Arrow trial

## Jury 'not on crusade to regulate City'

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE jury in the Blue Arrow fraud trial has been warned not to embark on a crusade to regulate the City but confine its deliberations to the evidence relating to the ten defendants.

On the final day of his opening address, Nicholas Purnell, QC, for the prosecution, said: "You are not engaged on some crusade to regulate the City - statute and rules are designed to do that. Your function is to examine the evidence in this case and decide the issue: did these defendants dishonestly agree to mislead the market?"

Blue Arrow launched a record £837 million rights issue in 1987 to become the world's largest employment agency by taking over Manpower, its American rival. The defendants allegedly kept secret the failure of the issue to protect their reputations.

Mr Purnell alleged the conspiracy to

cover up the failed issue was "very much a corporate frolic" and not a "simple frolic" by individual company employees. The secret take-up of 54 million shares after the issue had closed was a transaction requiring the "corporate muscle" of NatWest Investment Bank and the experience of UBS Phillips & Drew Securities, the broker.

The jury at the Old Bailey was told that there did not need to be losers in order for it to find defendants guilty of conspiracy to defraud. Mr Purnell said that in this case, there were losers covering the whole spectrum from small private investors to large institutions. He said one private investor bought 600 shares after reading that the initial issue and its subsequent placing were fully subscribed. Sun Life, an institutional Blue Arrow shareholder, decided not to take up the rights offer, but on learning of its success bought 500,000 shares.

County NatWest, its parent County

NatWest Investment Bank, UBS Phillips & Drew and seven professional advisers deny conspiring to mislead the market over the outcome of the rights issue in September 1987.

The individual defendants are David Reed, former executive director and managing director of corporate finance at County NatWest; Jonathan Cohen, chief executive at County and deputy chief executive with NatWest Investment Bank at the time of the issue; Nicholas Wells, former County executive director and a former member of its corporate advisory department; Stephen Clark, County's group finance director; Alan Keat, a partner in Travers Smith Braithwaite, the City solicitors, who advised County on the rights issue; Martin Gibbs, former director of UBS Phillips & Drew and Christopher Sainsforth, former director of UBS Phillips & Drew corporate finance.

The case continues.

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## Provident warning follows 14% rise

PROVIDENT Financial, the door-to-door money lending and insurance group, escaped the heavy bad debts that hit the large banks last year and increased pre-tax profits 14 per cent to £36 million.

Peter Hogg, the chief executive, has given warning that the company faces difficulties this year as more customers become unemployed.

Provident said bad debt provisions in its collected credit business had not increased because its customers were mainly council tenants, who were not affected by high interest rates. Profits in the main credit division rose 10 per cent to £32.7 million and the group is paying a 15.5p final dividend, making 23.5p for the year, up 15 per cent.

Mr Hogg said the company had cut costs by nearly £1 million to prepare for the rise in unemployment, and increased profit margins. He said Provident's money collectors would be sympathetic in genuine hardship cases. Provident's profits were badly affected in the early Eighties, when unemployment reached 3.2 million.

People's Motor Finance, the group's car financing subsidiary, made a small loss due to a rise in bad debts. Meanwhile, profits at Provident's insurance division fell 36 per cent to £6.9 million due to a rise in claims in Car Care Plan, the group's car warranty offshoot.

## Saatchi's package due today

The delayed Saatchi & Saatchi refinancing is expected today, according to sources close to the company, who have again stressed the package has not hit a last-minute hitch.

The unveiling of the deal was expected on Tuesday, but advisers are blaming complex legal requirements and logistical difficulties caused by the involvement of American parties for the further delay.

The deal will feature a heavily discounted rights issue to raise £50 million and a swap package that will wipe out the existing classes of convertible and other preference shares in exchange for new equity.

Advisers are denying that the delay was caused by opposition from existing holders of ordinary shares, who will see their holdings diluted to as little as 15 per cent of their existing level.

## Tarmac to lay tunnel tracks

TARMAC, the construction group, has been awarded part of a £70 million contract to install railway track inside the Channel tunnel. The company, based at Wolverhampton, will be paid £15 million for its part in a three-year consortium to fit more than 100 kilometres of track inside the two main tunnels.

Neville Simms, the chief executive, said: "Many European countries will be using the opportunity of the Channel tunnel to boost their own rail networks, and we hope that our unique multi-national joint venture will see us well placed for winning further contracts."

Montecor, of France, will lead the consortium, which includes two other French companies, Borec SAE and Travaux de Sud Ouest, and Heitkam of Germany. The contract starts this summer.

**Cullen appointed**  
DE LA RUE has appointed Leslie Cullen, aged 39, as finance director from March 21. He replaces John White, who joined De La Rue 15 years ago and becomes managing director of the security print division.

## SelecTV links with MAI in broadcasting licence move

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MAI Broadcasting, the consortium formed by Michael Palin, the actor, and Roger Laughton, former director of co-productions at the BBC, to bid for a Channel 3 licence, has linked with Britain's largest producer of comedy television programmes.

SelecTV, best known for *Birds of a Feather*, *Lovejoy*, *Girls on Top* and *Nightingales*, has become "a substantial minority shareholder" in MAI Broadcasting. SelecTV will supply the consortium with its comedy programming on a "not entirely exclusive basis", Mr Laughton, the chief executive, said.

MAI Broadcasting, a new division of MAI, the quoted money broking-in-market re-

search company, is planning multiple bids for a number of licence areas. It has been tipped to go for both TV-am, and either TVS, HTV or Anglia. Mr Laughton said: "The fact that we've got together with SelecTV does not rule out TV-am; it remains a possibility but now not the only possibility."

It is not yet clear whether SelecTV will be able to continue supplying the BBC or other ITV companies as an independent if MAI wins a licence. The government, which requires broadcasters to open 25 per cent of their schedules to independent producers by 1993, will rule soon on whether an independent with a stake in an ITV company can still qualify as an independent with respect to the 25 per cent quota rule.

MAI Broadcasting, which is the first to link up with a major independent, said talks are continuing with other independent producers.

The deal will improve MAI's chances of winning a licence. George Russell, the independent Television Commission chairman, has said newcomers would have to link with major independents to be able to displace any of the middle to large incumbents.

Simon Albery, a consortium member, said MAI plans to win a licence through the exceptional circumstances clause in the Broadcasting Act. Channel 3 licences will go to the highest bidder unless a lower bidder demonstrates it can provide an "exceptionally" high quality service.

Remo Dipre, the chairman, said there had been no recovery in the housing market and that no major improvement was likely in the short term.



Worst debt from small business: Hephher yesterday

## Abbey Life says one in 20 default on loans

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LLOYDS Abbey Life, the financial services group, has disclosed that 35,000 of its borrowers, one in 20, are in default on their loans.

The group increased pre-tax profits last year by 8 per cent to £319 million, thanks to a strong performance from its life assurance companies. Lloyds Abbey is holding its final dividend at 11p, to make an unchanged 17p for the year. Figures were hit by a 41 per

cent profits downturn from Lloyds Bowmaker, the consumer credit subsidiary. This suffered a 166 per cent increase in bad debt provisions. Michael Hephher, the chairman, said a disproportionate amount of bad debts came from small businesses.

Lloyds Abbey's subsidiary, Black Horse Financial Services, increased pre-tax profits by 60 per cent.

Times, page 27

## BAA 'is holding back' air industry

THE pricing policies of BAA, the airport operator, are holding back the British air industry and encouraging business travellers to avoid Britain, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has been told.

The European Regional Airlines Association (ERA) told the monopolies commission that BAA, whose airports include Heathrow and Gatwick, had implemented charging policies that were "persistently and continuously discriminatory against regional operations".

The association said the viability of air links with British and continental regions was threatened.

The ERA also predicted there would be a migration of business activity and population away from the regions to the already overcrowded Southeast.

The association, whose members include a number of British airlines, airports and manufacturers, added: "Putting vital air links at risk will simply exacerbate the UK recession."

When BAA, formerly British Airports Authority, was privatised it was decided that its operations would be investigated by the monopolies commission every five years.

The first of these investigations began before Christmas. The association's presentation to the monopolies commission was made by Mike Ambrose, the ERA's British-based director, who said yesterday: "We have provided clear evidence of discrimination by the BAA and compared it with the actions of other major European airports."

Mr Ambrose added: "The BAA's influence on regional economies far exceeds its responsibilities as simply an airport operator."

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Community Hospitals plans £10.4m rights

COMMUNITY Hospitals Group, the private healthcare services group, plans to raise £10.4 million through a one-for-three rights issue at 136p. The company said the issue, underwritten by Granville & Co. will help the group finance its £33 million development programme over the next two years. Cazenove & Co is broker to the issue.

Community Hospitals, which has nine hospitals and six nursing homes, said there are "a number of opportunities in the health care market" which it must take now to consolidate and strengthen its position. The company said pre-tax profits were down from £3.09 million to £1.99 million in the six months to December, although there was a £1.07 million exceptional gain last year. Turnover was £16.1 million (£12 million). Earnings per share up to 5.8p (8.7p). The interim dividend is 2.2p (1.9p).

### Sony lowers forecast

SONY has lowered its group operating profit forecast for the year to March 31, 1991 to 320 billion yen (£12.5 billion) from a November projection of Y360 billion. The downward revision was due to increased competition and a dull domestic market for audio and visual equipment. Group net and sales forecasts were unchanged.

### St David's lifts payout

PRE-TAX profits at St David's Investment Trust increased from £327,000 to £387,000 in the six months to end-January. The interim dividend is 4.7p (4.4p) on earnings a share of 6.85p (5.9p). The net asset value per share was 103.54p compared with 102.18p a year earlier, while net assets per capital share fell to 113.8p (166.8p).

### Mayne slides 21.8%

MAYNE Nickless, an Australian transport and security group, blamed difficult conditions for the 21.8 per cent slide in net profit to Aus\$51.3 million (£20.8 million) in the half year to December 30. The interim dividend is being cut from 20 to 17.5 cents.

Although transport revenue rose 15 per cent to Aus\$746.91 million, profit from transport fell 18.8 per cent to Aus\$37.05 million before interest and tax.

### NAV rises at Ecu Trust

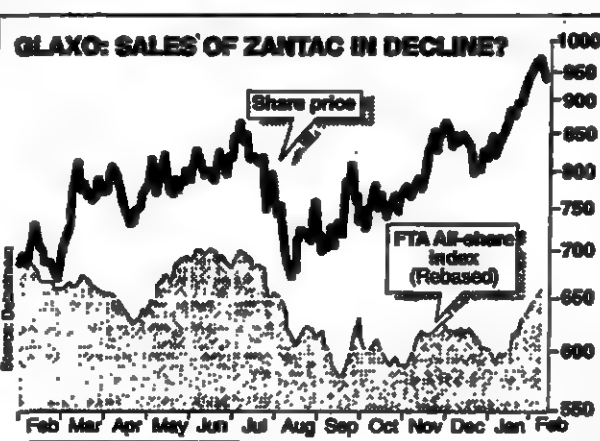
ECU Trust, the £143 million investment trust launched last July with a net asset value of 47.8p, reports a net asset value of 48.1p at end-December, excluding earnings. Pre-tax revenue was £564,000 in the five months. Gross income was £680,000 and earnings per share were 1.24p. There is no interim dividend. The final dividend will be 1p per share.

### Herrburger in the black

HERBURGER Brooks, the piano components maker, reported an interim pre-tax profit of £104,331 (£52,658 loss) to end-November. The company made a trading loss of £55,339 (£54,125 profit). There was a £252,880 exchange gain and turnover climbed to £3.62 million (£3.48 million). Earnings per share were 5.19p (3.02p loss).

## STOCK MARKET

### Glaxo shares fall as brokers give warnings on Zantac sales



THE interim figures from Glaxo next week are expected to show that Zantac, its best-selling anti-ulcer drug, has started to lose its hold on world markets because of increased competition.

Two securities firms have issued warnings that the sales of Zantac are now falling. Nikko, the Japanese securities house, and UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, are both looking for pre-tax profits of £580 million, a drop of £5 million on the corresponding period last year. However, Astra, the Swedish pharmaceuticals group, is expected to report a 30 per cent increase in profits, helped by Losac, its anti-ulcer drug that has been making increasing inroads into Zantac's market share.

Nikko's Andrew Porter says that Glaxo's new products are exciting and will make up for Zantac in the mid-Nineties but the heady growth days are over.

Ian Moore, an analyst at UBS P&D, said: "Sales of Zantac are in decline. There has been a fall in the market share. Sales levels can be maintained but the costs would be prohibitive."

UBS has now lowered its pre-tax profit forecast for the full year to June 30 from £1.18 billion to £1.15 billion and for the following year from £1.3 billion to £1.2 billion. Glaxo finished 32p lower at 939p.

The rest of the equity market spent another drab day with investors keeping a wary eye on the Moscow peace initiative. Hopes for another cut in bank base rates were placed on the back-burner with the latest output figures showing the economy sliding deeper into recession. A dull performance overnight on Wall Street and a fall of more than 30 points in the Dow Jones industrial average at the start of trading yesterday saw share prices in London close near the bottom as profits were taken.

The FT-SE 100 index ended 16p lower at 2,296.8. The FT index of 30 shares fell 12.3 to 1,826.2 with 514 million shares traded. Government securities ended with losses stretching to 5 1/2% at the longer end as the Bank of England moved to play down speculation of an imminent cut in base rates.

Among the leaders, ICI fell 15p to £10.13 ahead of figures next week. Grand Metropolitan lost 18p to 714p as Merrill Lynch, the New York securities house, urged its clients to

### AFG accelerates to £75m profit

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

AUTOMOTIVE Financial Group Holdings, Britain's biggest car dealer, which may lose its exclusive Nissan franchise, made pre-tax profits of £75 million, up 17 per cent.

The company, Europe's largest car trader with 180 dealerships, reported its good performance yesterday against the background of a shrinking market in the United Kingdom and the row between Nissan UK, the independent distributor headed by Octavius Botnar, and Nissan Motor Manufacturing of Japan.

Nissan UK has started legal action to prevent Nissan Motor from ending its 21-year-old distribution agreement. The termination of the deal would

clearly have an impact on AFG, where Mr Botnar is also chairman, by possibly ending its access to Nissan cars.

Many believe Nissan Motor may try to use the 180 Nissan dealers independent of Mr Botnar to start its own franchised network. But the strength of AFG's balance sheet shows that the group has been a significant contributor to Nissan's success in Britain.

In the year to July 31 last, turnover rose to £947.5 million from the £919.3 million recorded the previous year.

Operating profit was at £145.3 million. The group doubled profits on its retail activity in car sales to £14 million.

flected by rival broker Kleinwort Benson, which is forecasting a drop in expenditure growth this year from 2 per cent to 0.3 per cent.

Among those companies that have seen their forecasts cut is Boots, unchanged at 340p, Burton, 2p softer at 86p, Argos, 2p lower at 272p, Great Universal Stores A, 24p lower at £11.92, Kingfisher, 2p easier at 396p, and Sears, 1p cheaper at 92p. In the case of Marks and Spencer, steady at 235p, UBS P&D has cut its forecast for the year just ending by £5 million to £615 million and for next year by £20 million to £640 million.

Full-year figures from Lloyds Abbey, the life insurance group, were at the top end of expectations with pre-tax profits £24 million up at £318.9 million. The shares responded to the news with a rise of 3p to 376p.

Provident Financial rose 7p to 423p, also boosted by better than expected figures with pre-tax profits up from £31.7 million to £36.1 million.

Community Hospitals fell 16p to 156p after announcing plans to raise £10 million by a rights issue on the basis of one-for-three at 136p.

The hotels sector continued to slide despite a cheerful presentation this week by Kleinwort Benson. UBS P&D is taking a gloomy view of the outlook and is urging its clients to sell Travelodge Forte, down 10p to 246p. It has cut its forecast of pre-tax profits for the year just ended from £214 million to £206 million and for the current year by £40 million to £190 million.

There were sympathetic falls by Queens Meat, 3p to 88p, Stakis, 2p to 48p, Ladbrokes, 8p to 258p, and Bess, 3p to 985p. BAA also lost 8p to 384p after another disappointing set of passenger traffic figures, which reflected the impact of the Gulf war.

Turnhill, the construction group, recovered from its recent nosedive, adding 4p to 67p. The group announced a sharp fall in profits and a cut in dividend this week. But Alfred McAlpine lost 4p to 218p, worried about a cut in the dividend with tomorrow's figures. Geveer, the Cornish tin mining group, returned from suspension at 11 1/2p after announcing a pre-tax loss of £1.5 million (compared with a profit of £26,000) and a cut in the dividend.

The Exploration Co of Louisiana, an American oil and gas group listed in London, firmed up to 63p after a series of institutional presentations this week.

MICHAEL CLARK

## Dow dips 26 points on Gulf worries

NEW YORK  
THE Dow Jones industrial average was down by 26.49 to 2,905.69 at midday, having opened 31 points lower. Analysts said that persistent profit-taking amid uncertainty about the Middle East and disappointing economic data kept selling steady.

Bradley Turner, the chairman of the investment policy committee at McDonald and Co, said: "I think investors have stepped back to catch their breath."

●Tokyo - Prices closed higher after wide swings. Aggressive buying of high-technology blue chips brought the index back up in late trading after a volatile morning dominated by Gulf war uncertainties. The Nikkei index was up 31.81, or 0.12 per cent, to 26,198.79.

●Sydney - Disappointing profits, uncertainty about the Gulf war and doubts about whether the American stock market can sustain its rise sent the Australian market to a sharply lower close. The All-Ordinaries index fell 26.5 points to 1,372.2.

●Frankfurt - Shares ended 1.3 per cent lower, driven down by profit-taking after three days of gains. The Dax index ended down 19.81 at 1,567.32.

●Hong Kong - Stocks closed slightly higher in dull and featureless trading with investors on the sidelines because of an absence of developments in the Gulf. The Hang Seng index gained 24.32 to 3,492.16 and the broader-based Hong Kong index 14.10 to 2,289.04.

●Singapore - Shares closed higher across the board on institutional buying and optimism that the Gulf war would end early. The Straits Times industrial index closed at 1,397.40, up 18.10. (Reuters)

## MAJOR INDICES

New York: Dow Jones 2905.69 (-26.49)  
S&P Composite 365.86 (-3.53)  
Tokyo: Nikkei Average 26198.79 (+31.81)  
Hong Kong: Hang Seng 3492.16 (+24.32)  
FT-SE Eurotrack 1028.87 (-10.90)  
Amsterdam: CDS Tendency 96.7 (-1.7)  
Sydney: All-Ord 1372.2 (-26.5)  
Frankfurt: DAX 1567.32 (-19.81)  
Brussels: General 3534.78 (-28.90)  
Paris: CAC 448.28 (-11.25)  
Zurich: SBA Gen 514.7 (-1.3)  
London: FT-Air Share 1108.34 (-8.00)  
FT-300 1219.24 (-8.05)  
FT Gold Index 191.7 (-3.0)  
FT Food Index 94.14 (-0.08)  
FT Govt Secs 85.78 (-0.10)  
Bargains 26731  
SEAD Volume 514.24  
USA (Dollars) 117.80 (-0.15)  
Dollars latest trading price

## WALL STREET

Feb 20	Feb 19	Feb 18	Feb 17	Feb 16	Feb 15	Feb 14	Feb 13	Feb 12	Feb 11	Feb 10	Feb 9	Feb 8	Feb 7	Feb 6	Feb 5	Feb 4	Feb 3	Feb 2	Feb 1	Jan 31	Jan 30	Jan 29	Jan 28	Jan 27	Jan 26	Jan 25	Jan 24	Jan 23	Jan 22	Jan 21	Jan 20	Jan 19	Jan 18	Jan 17	Jan 16	Jan 15	Jan 14	Jan 13	Jan 12	Jan 11	Jan 10	Jan 9	Jan 8	Jan 7	Jan 6	Jan 5	Jan 4	Jan 3	Jan 2	Jan 1	Dec 31	Dec 30	Dec 29	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 26	Dec 25	Dec 24	Dec 23	Dec 22	Dec 21	Dec 20	Dec 19	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sep 30	Sep 29	Sep 28	Sep 27	Sep 26	Sep 25	Sep 24	Sep 23	Sep 22	Sep 21	Sep 20	Sep 19	Sep 18	Sep 17	Sep 16	Sep 15	Sep 14	Sep 13	Sep 12	Sep 11	Sep 10	Sep 9	Sep 8	Sep 7	Sep 6	Sep 5	Sep 4	Sep 3	Sep 2	Sep 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	Jul 31	Jul 30	Jul 29	Jul 28	Jul 27	Jul 26	Jul 25	Jul 24	Jul 23	Jul 22	Jul 21	Jul 20	Jul 19	Jul 18	Jul 17	Jul 16	Jul 15	Jul 14	Jul 13	Jul 12	Jul 11	Jul 10	Jul 9	Jul 8	Jul 7	Jul 6	Jul 5	Jul 4	Jul 3	Jul 2	Jul 1	Jun 30	Jun 29	Jun 28	Jun 27	Jun 26	Jun 25	Jun 24	Jun 23	Jun 22	Jun 21	Jun 20	Jun 19	Jun 18	Jun 17	Jun 16	Jun 15	Jun 14	Jun 13	Jun 12	Jun 11	Jun 10	Jun 9	Jun 8	Jun 7	Jun 6	Jun 5	Jun 4	Jun 3	Jun 2	Jun 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	Apr 30	Apr 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1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sep 30	Sep 29	Sep 28	Sep 27	Sep 26	Sep 25	Sep 24	Sep 23	Sep 22	Sep 21	Sep 20	Sep 19	Sep 18	Sep 17	Sep 16	Sep 15	Sep 14	Sep 13	Sep 12	Sep 11	Sep 10	Sep 9	Sep 8	Sep 7	Sep 6	Sep 5	Sep 4	Sep 3	Sep 2	Sep 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	Jul 31	Jul 30	Jul 29	Jul 28	Jul 27	Jul 26	Jul 25	Jul 24	Jul 23	Jul 22	Jul 21	Jul 20	Jul 19	Jul 18	Jul 17	Jul 16	Jul 15	Jul 14	Jul 13	Jul 12	Jul 11	Jul 10	Jul 9	Jul 8	Jul 7	Jul 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# Arithmetic baffles bond markets

Hundreds of PhDs in mathematics, physics and theoretical science work in the bond and currency markets these days. Their job is to design "optimal risk-return interest rate swap envelopes", "multi-currency hedged option portfolio models" and other wonderful creations of financial engineering. Their lofty qualifications do not, however, include simple arithmetic or even the ability to count. For instance, international financial markets are very confused at present about the following question: which is a bigger number, five or three?

That, in a fundamental sense, has been the issue driving bond and currency markets around the world in the past 12 months and investors seem still to be uncertain about the answer.

Yesterday, Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, told the American Senate: "The reduction in cost and price pressures has given the Federal Reserve scope to move aggressively to counter the economic downturn without fanning inflation fears."

Mr Greenspan made this statement a few minutes after the American government announced a much worse than expected inflation figure for January, including a jump of 0.8 per cent in what American economists consider the best measure of "core" inflation - the CPI excluding food and energy.

Now consider the arithmetical conundrum. When German inflation rose above 3 per cent for just one month last year, Karl-Otto Pöhl, the president of the Bundesbank, expressed horror. Investors abandoned the bond market in droves, prices collapsed and long-term interest rates soared to 9.2 per cent.

When American inflation jumped through 5 per cent in August and then continued to accelerate throughout the rest of the year, Mr Greenspan, repeated his conviction that he would win the battle against inflation in the long-term.

Investors flooded into the

bond market, prices rallied and yields fell below 8 per cent.

Even ignoring the horrific annualised monthly figures that make the financial headlines in America, US inflation in the year to January was running at 5.6 per cent. For Germany the corresponding figure was 2.9 per cent.

Why then do German ten-year bonds yield 8.2 per cent, while Treasuries of the same duration pay only 7.8 per cent?

There are several possible answers but the most popular one among investors appears to be that Germany is threatened by steadily accelerating prices, while the inflation cycle in America has already peaked.

Another way of saying this is that the hapless bond investors who look to central banks to protect them against inflation have more faith in Mr Greenspan

than in Herr Pöhl. On the basis of past achievements, this is impossible to believe, except for rocket scientists, some of whom genuinely seem to think that America's 5.4 per cent inflation record is somehow better than Germany's 2.9 per cent.

The danger lies in the differing perceptions of Whitehall, and in particular the powerful Public Accounts Committee, and the City institutions which are being asked to bid.

Initial soundings through the book-building process suggested that the whole issue could be sold on a yield of 6.3 per cent, well below the kind of price suggested by the independent stockbrokers, who might have been expected to talk the yield up on behalf of their institutional clients.

The second round of bids brought the suggested yield at

been widely praised. It aims to ensure that public assets are sold for what the market thinks they are worth, rather than what it says it might be prepared to pay during the tortuous negotiating process. As John Wakeham, the energy secretary, takes the final decision on price ahead of impact day tomorrow, there is the danger that he has painted himself too far into a corner.

The government's novel approach to selling the two generators, National Power and PowerGen, by requiring the institutions to put in a round of preliminary bids and so building a book of tender prices at which the shares can be allocated, has

which the issue would be sold once over, down to 6.1 per cent. This can be regarded as the rock-bottom price; if the shares are offered at a lower yield still, the City can legitimately walk away.

The difficulty comes when Treasury hawks and Mr Wakeham's civil servants take this as a fair price, because the sub-text of this preliminary round of book-building is that the yield then suggested will be adjusted upwards to take account of market uncertainties during the offer period and the need to leave a little in for the private investor.

Offer the shares at 6.1 per cent, therefore, and the institutions will howl. They will also be a deal less congenial when the next public asset, be it the Scottish power industry or half of British Telecom, comes up for sale.

If Mr Wakeham takes this on board and ups the yield to closer to 6.5 per cent to attract the Franks, he then has to explain to the accounts committee why he did not accept the price apparently on the table, but instead gave up more than £100 million of public money to win over the private investor.

Open government is a wonderful thing, but in commercial life there can be such a thing as too much openness.

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## Power bids

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IN WESTMINSTER, Gordon Brown, Labour's industry spokesman, has his fax machine at the ready. In Victoria, Peter Lilley, the industry secretary, will be aware his staff and department will be under attack. By Charing Cross, Professor Roland Smith, chairman of British Aerospace, will be keen to know. In Holborn, Lord Young of Graffham, chairman of Cable and Wireless, has characteristically got his reaction in first.

To what? What are all these rum, who wield considerable power on the broad line which both joins and divides politics and industry, waiting for?

At 10am today, amid the green leather and discreet wood panelling of room 15 on the first floor of the House of Commons, the latest twist will be given to a vexed saga: the sale by the government of the Rover car group to British Aerospace in 1988.

The Commons' trade and industry select committee, already deep in controversy this week with the refusal of Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, to reply to some of its questions over Harrods Bank, publishes its latest and long-awaited into the Rover privatisation.

The report, which took two years and runs to 100 pages, has deeply divided members of the cross-party committee, largely over its criticisms of Lord Young, trade and industry secretary at the time of what he calls the "deal of the decade". Not about whether he should be criticised, but about just how scabbing that criticism should be.

Speaking earlier this week to *The Times*, Lord Young dismissed the report in advance, and strongly defended his actions over the sale, arguing that without it the car industry would have lost more than 200,000 jobs and Honda, the Japanese car manufacturer, would never have come to Britain.

At the heart of the report is not the £150 million sale itself,

## Rover case returns for more laps of Whitehall



Unrepentant: Lord Young of Graffham

but the so-called "sweetener" of up to £44 million made to BAE to seal the deal in its final stages. Sir Leon Brittan, the EC's competition commissioner, eventually ruled they were illegal under EC provisions against state subsidy.

The report will not go as far as supporting some Labour claims of a conspiracy between ministers and trade and industry department civil servants to cover up the true cost to the taxpayer of the sale. But it will sharply rebuke Lord Young for failing to reveal to Parliament full details of the

minutiae of DTI and BAE documents by some of Parliament's most seasoned Whitehall Kremlinologists, even some MPs on the committee now accept that a full, final, and true picture of the complete payments to BAE may never be known.

An independent academic inquiry earlier this year into the closure of one of BAE-Rover's plants at Cowley, Oxford, described what is known about the sale as "confusing", especially the political and commercial motives behind it, and concluded that "making sense of it all is difficult because views differ so widely."

Today's report will see those wide differences of views aired again: at least two Conservative members of the committee are expected to object to their own report's conclusions at today's press conference to publish it. Those objections will be very far from the end of the matter. Professor Smith will not comment on the report's findings today because of the high, and European, court actions in which the company is already embroiled over the affair, challenging the DTI's legal action against it to recover the sweetener money, as demanded by Sir Leon.

In the Commons, the all-party public accounts committee still has to pronounce, and Terry Davis, a leading Labour member of the committee, has made it clear the issue still is for the committee whether or not the taxpayer had a bad deal on the sale.

Labour is likely to use the publication of the report as a means of raising again the whole question of the government's privatisation policy, and in particular how the taxpayer benefits out of what Labour will charge is the government's ideological drive to take remaining state industries into the private sector.

PHILIP BASSETT  
Industrial Editor

## Poulenc suffers from loss in Brazil

A DISASTROUS performance in Brazil and the weakness of the dollar took their toll of Rhône-Poulenc, the first leading chemicals group to report its year-end results.

Net income at the French state-controlled group slumped \$2.5 per cent to Fr1.94 billion in the year to end-December.

Sales rose 7.9 per cent to Fr78.8 million, but turnover was bolstered by a merger of the pharmaceuticals business with Rorer, of America, with effect from May 1990. Rhône-Poulenc now claims to be the world's eighth largest drugs company.

Sales and profits from RTZ Chemicals, bought for \$560 million in October 1989, were also included for the first full year.

Announcing the results in Paris yesterday, Jean-René Fourtou, the chairman, predicted a 25 per cent sales increase in 1991. He was less precise, however, about the prospects for a profit recovery.

In Brazil, which accounts for almost one-tenth of Rhône-Poulenc's sales, the battle against inflation launched by President Collor caused a loss of Fr880 million.

Translation of profits at an average exchange rate of Fr3.44 to the dollar, against Fr3.37 in 1989, also contributed to the sharp dip.

The belated rush by M Fourtou to achieve critical mass on a world scale in his core businesses of pharmaceuticals, and specialty and intermediate chemicals has, however, also saddled Rhône-Poulenc with a hefty interest burden.

Gearing rose from 70 per cent to 90 per cent during 1990. Although the French government shareholding has been reduced to 58 per cent by state-shedding M Fourtou is constrained in his ability to reinforce his balance sheet by issuing new equity.

A large-scale programme of disposals is in prospect. Rhône-Poulenc is still integrating its acquisitions and weeding out inefficiency and unwanted businesses.

But M Fourtou said the 91,600 workforce worldwide would probably decline by only 1,000 during 1991, against an average drop of 2,000 to 3,000 a year over the past few years.

M Fourtou believes the strength of Rhône-Poulenc in "life sciences" - human and animal health products - should help it withstand a cyclical weakness in chemical markets.

Life sciences accounted for more than half of sales and two-thirds of operating income.

## Shell well placed to ride out the storms

SHELL and BP may be as different as chalk and cheese but, as Britain's largest oil companies, in a sector with heavy institutional weighting, they are fated to be measured against each other.

Invariably, Shell comes off better, particularly when oil prices are volatile, because of its broader spread of upstream and downstream interests.

Hence the sharp difference in the way its shares have performed since war erupted in the Gulf and oil prices collapsed. While BP shares have slipped 4p since January 15, Shell's have risen from 44 1/2p to 46 1/2p, lagging the rest of the market by under 6 pence, despite the outlook.

Do Shell's 1990 figures justify the confidence? Net earnings, calculated on a replacement cost basis, fell 16 per cent to £3.01 billion while historic earnings were down 9 per cent to £3.61 billion. BP declined by 12 per cent and 4 pence respectively.

On the surface then, BP appears to have the upper hand. Yet while analysts expect BP's replacement cost profits to remain static at £1.2 billion in the current year, Shell can look forward to a recovery to £3.4 billion, if the City has done its sums right.

The consensus is that oil prices will remain close to current levels, which will leave BP with hefty stock losses in the first quarter and restrain its upstream interests, which account for 60 per cent of revenue. Shell's upstream interests, however, contribute just 40 per cent of revenue, with the balance split evenly between downstream operations and chemicals. With refining margins likely to remain strong and chemicals heading for a modest second-half recovery this year, Shell can look forward with some confidence.

However, the fundamental long-term difference between the two companies is in the balance sheet. Despite a succession of disposals, BP's gearing remains at about 55 per cent. By contrast, Shell is less than 5 per cent borrowed and is planning capital expenditure of up to \$12 billion a year for the next five years, doubling its asset base in the process, funded almost exclusively from cashflow.

Shell's final dividend of 11.7p increases the total payout 9.2 pence to 20.1p a share. Earnings of 33p this year would leave the shares on a prospective p/e of 14, with a yield of 16 per cent, assuming a total dividend of 21.9p. A strong hold, even for oil price bears.

THE strength of sterling acted like sulphuric acid on Yorkshire Chemicals in the second half, restricting pre-tax profits growth for the year ended December to 12 per cent at £10.79 million (£9.6 million) on turnover that advanced 16.5 per cent to £81.6 million.

Turnover in the second half was virtually static, and pre-tax profits slid by 10 per cent. If the pound is not reversed on the exchanges by June 30, Yorkshire will report a drab first half result compared with the opening half of 1990 - even though fundamentally the business is going well.

Short-term concerns, however, are not deflecting Yorkshire from its longer term aims, which include capital expenditures of £42 million

between now and 1996, and a series of acquisitions to broaden its range further.

At least Yorkshire is without gearing at balance sheet date, compared with an 8 per cent geared level previously, and currently sits with net cash of £2.5 million. The return on capital employed pressed forward from 27.6 per cent to 32 per cent last year.

Yorkshire's promise that the "greater" part of its planned capital expenditure programme will be funded internally suggests that if the market were deemed to be in a receptive mood it may not be afraid to make a rights issue.

## TEMPUS

## Shell well placed to ride out the storms

company's embedded value accounting methods.

This shows up in the transfer from the life fund to the profit and loss account, which has soared by 146 per cent to \$64.2 million. First, there is an unquantified boost arising from the life fund surplus, part of which has been transferred in response to last year's Budget ruling.

The transfer was also flattered by an increase in charges on unit linked policies in Abbey Life and in Black Horse Financial Services. Both these changes are one-off gains.

In spite of the accountancy quirks and one-off gains, the growth in Black Horse Financial Services, the subsidiary which sells to Lloyds Bank customers, is undeniable. It sold 170,000 policies in the year, a market share of 13 per cent. Michael Hepper, the chairman, is confident this can increase to more than 40 per cent as the sales force grows.

The group was also aided by a turnaround in Black Horse Agencies, the estate agency chain. This made a profit of £12.7 million, compared with a £5.3 million loss last year, due to strict cost control.

The fly in the ointment was Lloyds Bowmaker, the finance house. Profits fell by 41 per cent to £32.4 million as bad debts increased to £70.4 million (£26.5 million). This type of fluctuation is inevitable in a cyclical business like consumer finance and justifies Lloyds Abbey's desire to reduce its dependence on its non-life operations.

Lloyds Abbey's profits will be included in the figures from Lloyds Bank, its 60 per cent shareholder, tomorrow, and prop up the dire results from the bank's lending business.

Lloyds Abbey is holding its dividend at 17p until earnings improve. Group profits could reach £350 million this year which puts the shares, at 377p, on a p/e ratio of 11 and a yield of 6 per cent. Reasonable, but no bargain.

ON THE eve of the banks' reporting season, Lloyds Abbey Life results for last year provide a ray of hope against the dark clouds of bad debts.

Pre-tax profits of the financial services group rose 8 per cent to £319 million, after a particularly strong performance from its expanding life assurance subsidiaries.

The profit figures from Lloyds Abbey's life businesses rose 19 per cent to £265 million, but appear to have been flattered through the

THE "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Public Limited Company

Final dividend 1990

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on Thursday, 14th March, 1991 for the preparation of warrants for a Final dividend for the year 1990 of 11.7p per 25p Ordinary Share. It is approved at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 18th May, 1991 the dividend will be paid on 20th May, 1991.

For transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar - Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA, not later than 3pm on 14th March, 1991.

SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER

The Coupon to be presented for the above dividend will be No. 185 which must be deposited for examination at Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Issue Section, 11 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 3LB, at least five clear days before payment is required (the required date cannot be prior to the 20th May, 1991) or may be surrendered through Messieurs Lazard Frères et Cie, 121 boulevard Haussmann, 75008, Paris.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

J. A. Cunliffe  
Secretary

Shell Centre,  
London SE1 7NA  
20th February, 1991

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Fred is firm on fees

FRED Carr, one of the few remaining colourful City characters, looks set to stay in the Square Mile for a little while longer. For Carr, aged 45, and so called ever since his days at Eton because of his resemblance, first thing in the morning, to Fred Flintstone, has been promoted from business development director to chief executive of W1 Carr (Investments), the division of the Banque Indosuez subsidiary that deals with all private client investment as well as charities, trusts and some pension funds. Carr, no relation to the W1 Carr founder, and a firm believer in the old City motto "My word is my bond", replaces John Yieldham, aged 52, who, at his own request, will now concentrate on looking after clients and working more from the firm's office in Farnham, Surrey, since it is only three miles from his home in the village of Tilford. Carr, previously a partner and then marketing director at Capel-Care Myers, has already wrought some changes. He has introduced a fee-based payment structure for private client work, rather than relying entirely on commissions. Those fees, which he describes as "modest" by City standards, start at £350 for fully discretionary portfolio management. "I'm in favour of fees rather than relying solely on commission because one doesn't want to be dependent upon doing busi-

ness in order to stay in business," says Carr. "To lift a phrase from the Watergate trial, one has to make sure that there is no external metal influence on one's magnetic compass."

BALANCING the books. The American state of Michigan is in short of cash that it is selling the governor's personal helicopter, worth almost £1 million. It will save the jobs of 25 state troopers.

Tied up, not down VALENTINE'S Day has come and gone but, in the hectic world of corporate tussles, romance is never far away. Perhaps that is why KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant, has drawn up a guide to the perfect merger which would do many a marriage counsellor proud. The epic, bold and imaginative by accountancy stan-



"Officially I'm in recession"

dards, advises companies to "look around and play the field", rather than just courting the boy or girl next door. "Don't rush down the aisle," it says, while adding, not unexpectedly, that the help of a professional matchmaker can make all the difference to a romance. "Too many people rush into European mergers for instance," says Richard Agutter, chairman of KPMG's international mergers and acquisitions network, who adds that the recession has not killed off demand for cross-border ventures. "There was a drop-off during the last quarter, but we are getting to the bottom of the cycle," he says. Last year British companies made 503 such deals in the so-called middle market with a value of up to \$100 million each.

### Exchanges nailed

ANDREW High Smith, chairman of the International Stock Exchange, has wasted little time putting his cost-cutting measures into action. The stock exchanges in Bristol, Newcastle and Liverpool are to close next month, taking a handful of jobs and many more memories with them. The demise of the Bristol floor may bring a tear to the eye of Sir Allen Sheppard, chairman of Grand Metropolitan, since it was there that Berni Inns, later to become part of the food and drink group, first came to the market. "Many big companies were listed here for the first time," says Peter Barrow, manager of the branch for the past 12 years,

who adds that the exchange found a new role as a settlement centre after declining in importance in the early Sixties. The building was built in 1903 by Sir George White, the founder of Bristol Omnibus Company which went on to become part of British Aerospace. Its neighbour, the Corn Exchange, is better known for the nails outside its entrance on which traders used to hang banknotes, hence coining the phrase "to pay on the nail".

A PHILOSOPHICAL note from the Wyoming Trucker, published in America: "One good thing about getting old is that insurance representatives stop bothering you."

### Marsh wades in

OCTAV Botnar, who made a fortune importing Japanese cars to Britain, is squaring off for a lengthy court battle with Nissan, the Japanese car maker. Nissan, which has invested heavily in Britain and is attempting to buy out Nissan UK from Botnar, who expects big compensation, is making sure it has some heavyweights on its side in the fight. It has appointed former transport minister Richard Marsh as special British adviser - a post he held from 1981 until 1988 and one which led to the construction of a £700 million Nissan factory in Tyne & Wear. When it comes to transport problems, Marsh is good as any at coping. He is a former chairman of British Rail.

CAROL LEONARD







## RECENT ISSUES

# Robbery necessary

**Regina v Guy**  
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Henry and Mr Justice Pill  
[Judgment February 20]

Even though robbery was not specifically referred to in Schedule 1 to the Firearms Act 1968, as being a "schedule offence" under section 17(2) of that Act, when a person had in his possession a firearm or imitation firearm and was convicted of robbery, he was necessarily guilty of theft, which was a schedule offence.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an appeal by Christopher David Guy, aged 29, against conviction at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court (Judge Hall) in February 1990 after pleading guilty to robbery of £36 from a petrol station cashier (count 1) and using a toy pistol in carrying out the robbery (count 2).

He was sentenced to three years imprisonment on count 1 and two years consecutive on count 2. An appeal against sentence was dismissed.

Mr Patrick Cosgrove, signed by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr David R. Wood for the Crown.

**MR JUSTICE HENRY**, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant's advisers felt that the sentence was arguably too high.

While preparing a sentence appeal, Mr Cosgrove mentioned what had previously escaped his attention, that count 2 could not have charged the appellant with having in his possession a firearm at the time of committing robbery. That was because robbery was not a schedule offence.

He could have been charged under section 18(1) of the Firearms Act 1968 with having with him an imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

As there was a schedule offence, the Crown court properly accepted the plea of guilty. I

# Welfare benefit advice

**Regina v Legal Aid Board, Ex parte Bruce**  
Before Mr Justice Hinchinson  
[Judgment February 18]

Solicitors who obtained advice from a non-legally qualified person who ran a business of giving welfare benefit advice could recover their charges as costs of a legal aid advice and assistance scheme, also known as the green form scheme, provided the solicitors were acting merely as a conduit pipe.

Mr Justice Hinchinson so held in the Queen's Bench Division in judicial review proceedings in granting *certiorari* to quash a decision of the Legal Aid Board dated October 19, 1990 that the charges of the applicant, Patricia Bruce, in providing advice to solicitors as to their client's entitlement to welfare benefits could not be recovered under the green form scheme on the grounds that it would be *ultra vires* the board's powers.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Mr Nigel J. Ley for the applicant; Mr Duncan Matheson, QC, for the board.

**MR JUSTICE HUTCHINSON** said that on June 7, 1989 the board had informed Mrs Bruce that each application made by a solicitor for her expenses as disbursement would be considered individually but that it would generally be allowable under the green form scheme.

Thereafter, Mrs Bruce went ahead with setting up her

# Sentencing on drugs gang organisation

**Regina v Koussolo**  
When sentencing for an offence of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on the importation of a controlled drug, it was not necessarily appropriate to assess the seriousness of the offence by reference to the quantity of drugs involved.

Some regard should be given to the method of importation, the degree of organisation and planning and the difficulty of detection.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Woolf, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Wright) so stated on February 5, when dismissing the appeal of Elekto Alexis Koussolo against a sentence of 8½ years imprisonment imposed on June 13, 1990 at Croydon Crown Court by Judge K. M. McHale on the appellant's charge of plea to guilty of the offence.

**MR JUSTICE WRIGHT** said that the drug was to be imported concealed in the courier's body.

That was a method of importation which was exceptionally difficult to detect. The quantity of drugs involved was necessarily limited, and the organisation had to recruit a large number of couriers.

In those circumstances the sentence imposed must be one which would deter others from engaging in such activities.

**Regina v Guy**  
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Henry and Mr Justice Fuli  
[Judgment February 20]  
Even though robbery was not specifically referred to in Schedule 1 to the Firearms Act 1968, as being a "schedule offence" under section 17(2) of that Act, when a person had in his possession a firearm or imitation firearm and was convicted of robbery, he was necessarily guilty of theft, which was a schedule offence.  
The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an appeal by Christopher David Guy, aged 29, against conviction at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court (Judge Hirst) on January 1990 after pleading guilty to robbery of £36 from a petrol station cashier (count 1) and using a toy pistol in carrying out the robbery, (count 2).  
He was sentenced to three years imprisonment on count 1 and two years consecutive on

count 2. An appeal against sentence was dismissed.

Mr Patrick Cosgrove, signed by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the respondent, Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr David R. Wood for the Crown Prosecution Service.

**MR JUSTICE HENRY**, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant's advisers felt that the sentence was arguably too high.

While preparing a sentence appeal, Mr Cosgrove noted that what had previously escaped his attention, that count 2 could have been charged in connection with having in his possession a firearm at the time of committing robbery. That was because robbery was not a scheduled offence.

He could have been charged under section 18(1) of the Firearms Act 1968 with having with him an imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

It was a schedule offence, the crown court properly accepted the plea of guilty.

**Regina v Legal Aid Board, Ex parte Bruce**  
Before Mr Justice Hutchinson  
[Judgment February 18]

Solicitors who obtained advice from a non-legally qualified person who ran a business of giving welfare benefit advice could recover her charges as expenses under the legal advice and assistance scheme, also known as the green form scheme, provided the solicitors were not acting merely as a conduit pipe.

Mr Justice Hutchinson so held in the Queen's Bench Division in granting review proceedings in judicial review proceedings in *Regina v Legal Aid Board* to quash a decision of the Legal Aid Board dated October 30, 1990 that the claimant of the applicant, Patricia

Bruce, in providing advice to solicitors as their clients' entitlement to welfare benefits could not be recovered under the green form scheme on the ground that it would be *ultra vires* the board's powers.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Mr John Mann, QC, appeared for the applicant, Mr Duncan Matheson QC, for the board.

**MR JUSTICE HUTCHINSON** said that on June 7, 1989 the board decided that solicitors that each application made by solicitor for her expenses as disbursement would be considered individually but that it would generally be allowable under the scheme.

Thus advised, Mrs Bruce went ahead with setting up her

**Regina V Kowadlo**  
When sentencing for an offence of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on the importation of a controlled drug, it was not necessarily appropriate to assess the seriousness of the offence by reference solely to the quantity of drugs involved.

Some regard should be given to the method of importation, the degree of organisation and planning, and the difficulty of detection.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Woolf, Mr Justice Tud Evans and Mr Justice Wright) so stated on February 5, when dismissing the appeal of a defendant charged with importing a controlled drug, against a 14-year

term of 8½ years imprisonment imposed on June 13, 1990 at a Crown Court by Judge J. K. McCall. On the appellant's change of plea to guilty of the offence.

**MR JUSTICE WRIGHT** said that the drug was to be imported concealed in the courier's body. That was a method of importation which was exceptionally difficult to detect, the quantity of drugs involved was necessarily limited, and the organisation had to recruit a large number of couriers.

In those circumstances the sentence imposed must be one where the court is not concerned in such activities.

**Computer & Systems Engineering plc v John Lelliott (Hford) Ltd and Another**

Damage to a property caused by the escape of water from a fractured sprinkler system pipe was not damaged caused by "flood" or "bursting... of... pipes" within the meaning of clause 23C1.3 of the JCT Standard Building Contract (1980 edition).

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Taylor and Lord Justice Beldam) so stated on December 5, in dismissing an appeal by the second defendant, E. S. Beldam Ltd, from the decision of Judge John Buckitt sitting as a deputy High Court judge (*The Times* May 23, 1989).

**LORD JUSTICE BELDAM** said that in the context of the present contract "flood" imported the invasion of the property by extraneous water caused by a rapid accumulation or sudden release of water from an external source, usually but not necessarily confined to the result of a storm, tempest or downpour.

The bursting of tanks, apparatus or pipes was confined to the rupture of tanks, apparatus or pipes from within, typically caused by over pressure, such as expansion or pressure within the vessel or pipe itself.

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## MONEY MARKETS

The prices in this section refer to Tuesday's trading

1995/96	Price	Grain Yld	1995/96	Price	Grain Yld
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	Low	Company	Del	Offer	Chgs	Div	%	P/E		Low	Company	Del	Offer	Chgs	Div	%	P/E
74	452	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	228	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
75	453	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	229	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
76	454	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	230	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
77	455	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	231	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
78	456	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	232	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
79	457	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	233	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
80	458	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	234	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
81	459	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	235	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
82	460	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	236	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
83	461	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	237	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
84	462	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	238	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
85	463	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	239	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
86	464	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	240	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
87	465	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	241	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
88	466	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	242	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
89	467	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	243	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
90	468	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	244	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
91	469	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	245	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
92	470	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	246	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
93	471	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	247	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
94	472	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	248	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
95	473	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	249	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
96	474	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	250	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
97	475	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	251	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
98	476	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	252	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
99	477	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	253	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
100	478	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	254	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
101	479	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	255	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
102	480	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	256	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
103	481	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	257	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
104	482	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	258	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
105	483	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	259	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
106	484	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	260	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
107	485	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	261	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
108	486	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	262	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
109	487	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	263	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
110	488	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	264	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
111	489	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	265	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
112	490	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	266	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
113	491	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	267	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
114	492	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	268	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
115	493	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	269	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
116	494	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	270	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
117	495	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	271	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
118	496	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	272	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
119	497	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	273	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
120	498	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	274	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
121	499	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	275	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
122	500	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	276	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
123	501	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	277	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
124	502	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	278	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
125	503	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	279	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
126	504	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	280	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
127	505	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	281	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
128	506	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	282	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
129	507	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	283	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
130	508	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	284	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
131	509	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	285	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
132	510	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	286	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
133	511	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	287	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
134	512	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	288	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
135	513	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	289	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
136	514	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	290	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
137	515	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	291	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
138	516	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	292	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
139	517	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	293	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
140	518	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	294	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
141	519	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	295	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
142	520	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	296	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
143	521	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	297	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
144	522	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	298	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
145	523	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	299	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
146	524	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	300	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
147	525	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	301	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
148	526	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	302	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
149	527	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	303	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
150	528	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	304	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
151	529	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	305	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
152	530	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	306	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
153	531	Amsett	17	17	17	17	27	27	307	179	88	Green (Strom)	18	18	18	18	33
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● RACING 31  
● GOLF 32  
● BOXING 33

# SPORT

## Crossan returns to establish record for Irish

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

KEITH Crossan will become Ireland's most-capped rugby union wing when he plays against England at Lansdowne Road on March 2. He was one of two changes announced yesterday from the XV which drew 21-21 with Wales in Cardiff last weekend, to secure Ireland's first point of the five nations' championship.

Crossan, aged 31, will overtake the tally of 34 caps established by his fellow Ulsterman, Trevor Ringland. He displaces Jack Clarke, a debutant on the left wing against the Welsh, and is joined in the side by Neil Francis, the Blackrock College lock. Francis will make his ninth international appearance at the expense of Mick Galwey (Shannon); both Galwey and Clarke must be content to do duty in a powerful B XV, containing ten

capped players, against England on March 1.

Ireland's selectors will have made changes only reluctantly for the match against England, particularly at forward, where they held their own against both France and Wales. But the desire for extra height at the lineout has brought in Francis (6ft 6in) for Galwey (6ft 4in), in the knowledge of the problems he caused England at Twickenham last season; to be fair, Francis was an original selection against France earlier this month and withdrew only because of a virus.

He was replaced by Brian Rigney, who holds his position, but the selectors will pray that what they win on the lineout they do not lose in the scrummaging. Galwey, who broke his nose against Wales, and Rigney were particularly

sound in that respect against France.

Crossan's return was widely anticipated, once he had shown he had recovered from a fractured fibula sustained in a club match in November. He made his 34th appearance against Argentina in October, but Ken Hooks, of Bangor, played against France before the call-up of Crossan; moreover since Ireland's policy of running the ball against Wales paid off so well Crossan's speed and experience will be a great bonus.

There will have been some debate about the goal-kicking in Cardiff but, as Rob Saunders, the young captain, observed after the match, Ireland chose a back division to run the ball and scored four tries by doing so. Would they have done so with Michael Kiernan, the country's record points scorer, in midfield? Instead Kiernan is another who appears in the B international at Donnybrook, in what is an out-and-out second XV rather than a development side — though the selectors would contend that playing promising players such as Colin Wilkinson and David Herman in such experienced company must assist their progress.

Michael Bradley, who has won 23 caps, will captain the side from scrum half, with a back division of whom Wilkinson and Herman are the only two uncapped players, though both appeared in the B XV which beat Scotland 16-0 in December. Of the forwards only O'Riordan, McCarthy and Fitzgerald have not been capped, against an English team which includes five senior players, four in the pack.

Two more capped players, Chris Oti and Steve Bates, make returns after long-standing injuries in the second XV match against Bath United the same day. The bad weather has operated against Bates, the scrum half who might otherwise have challenged for the place in the cup side, while Oti, the wing, has been feeling his way gradually back to fitness after a leg injury.

Harlequins, the 1988 cup winners, have chosen the side that beat Gloucester in the last round against Roslyn Park. Richard Langhorn, at No. 8, is the only uncapped player in the pack.

## Becker splits with his coach

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THREE weeks after winning the Australian Open and becoming world No. 1 for the first time, Boris Becker has split with his coach, Bob Brett. Ion Tiriac, Becker's manager, said at the Stuttgart Classic yesterday that the parting of the ways had been mutual and amicable.

"The contract came to an end and we all sat down and decided not to renew it," Tiriac said. "They were together for three-and-a-half years, which is a very long time, and they have had a great run, but it was time for a change."

The relationship between Brett and Becker, which was always based more on professional respect than personal friendship, had cooled considerably in recent months. But the timing of the split is poignant.

At the Australian Open at the end of last month, the normally unemotional Brett had been reduced to tears by the scale of Becker's dual triumph, achieved in his home town of Melbourne. The feeling then was that the victory would paper over the cracks as Becker tried to consolidate his No. 1 ranking. In fact, it sealed the end of the partnership. "I think both felt that was the best time to part," Tiriac said.

Since he left his first coach, Gunther Bosch, and came under Brett's stern guidance, Becker has won three grand slam titles — Wimbledon, the United States and Australian Opens. "Brett is a very good coach and will no doubt find another job very soon," Tiriac said. The Australian has reportedly been hired by the Yugoslav, Goran Ivanisevic, who beat Becker in the first round at the French Open but lost to him in the semi-final at Wimbledon.

Ivanisevic recently split with his coach, Balazs Taroczy, and needs discipline. The same could be said of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), which would be interested in the services of the Australian, who was responsible for a revival in John Lloyd's career before he went to Becker and has been considered by the LTA before.

Becker's plans are rather more mysterious. "It is possible that he does not need a full-time coach, but someone who will work with him for the grand slams, someone who



When the sun shone on a partnership: Becker, left, and his coach in amiable mood in Frankfurt two years ago

knows tennis well and can change little things here and there," Tiriac said. "I will have some suggestions, but the final decision will be Boris's. He is 25 now; he should know what he wants."

One name already in the frame is that of Nikkili Pili, the German Davis Cup captain. He will have plenty of time to ponder his future. After pulling out of his semi-final against Andrei Cherkasov in Brussels last week with a recurrence of a thigh injury, Becker, who lost his top ranking to Edberg again last week, has withdrawn from the tournaments here and in Indian Wells early next month.

He is also doubtful for the Lipton International in Key Biscayne in a month's time and might not reappear until the start of the clay court season in Monte Carlo on April 22.

Bjorn Borg and Jimmy Connors will play an exhibition in London, the promoter, Patrick Malynan,

insisted yesterday, despite announcements to the contrary by Borg's agents at the International Management Group (IMG).

"It's perfectly straightforward," Malynan said. "He is doing an exhibition tour and I have the London date. I have the documents to say he is playing."

Borg asked us to put together an exhibition tour in April, then he changed his mind and decided he wanted to stay and practice on clay," Borg said. "I have been told the promoter might have jumped the gun a little."

## Sapsford breaks the pain barrier

DANNY Sapsford, the British Davis Cup player and No. 2 seed, who has been dogged by back and elbow injuries, yesterday took two hours and 12 minutes to defeat Christian Brandi, of Italy, 7-5, 7-6, in the first-round of the Serve and Volley men's satellite tournament at Eastbourne.

Sapsford, who was recently named the British No. 3, said: "I came through a long match without pain. He was a very difficult opponent but I was pleased with the way I played."

One break, in the eleventh game, earned the Surrey player the first set but he had to come back from 0-3 in the second before fighting back to a tight 8-6 tie-break.

An even tighter match saw Mark Peckey, the British No. 5 from Essex, beat David

Wells-Smith, of the United States, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6. Peckey did well to come back from 0-3 down in the final set and romp through the deciding tie-break game by 7-3.

Sara Gomer overcame Valtia Laka, 6-1, 6-1, to reach the semi-finals of the ETA women's satellite tournament in Croydon. Gomer, the No. 1 seed, out-ran and outwitted her opponent, who is 372 pounds lower on the women's computer, to take the tie in one hour 20 minutes.

Lake, aged 22, is continuing her tournament comeback at Croydon after retiring from the full-time game in 1989.

Gomer plays Soda De Vries, of The Netherlands, in the semi-finals today.

Results, page 35

## IRB raises hopes of South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — South Africa's hopes of hosting the 1995 rugby union World Cup were raised yesterday by Ken Smith, president of the International Rugby Board (IRB).

Smith said on arriving here that South Africa's application would be "favourably considered." He said that he hoped his visit would accelerate efforts to unite the country's rival controlling bodies, the "establishment" South African Rugby Board (SARU) and the anti-apartheid South African Rugby Union (SARU).

"I hope the negotiations between the SARU and the SARU will be completed as soon as possible so that South Africa can take its rightful place in the international rugby arena," he said.

Unity is the key pre-condition of the world sporting community before it will agree to lift the anti-apartheid sporting boycott which has isolated the country for years.

Smith, a Scot, is in South Africa to attend a farewell function on Friday for Fritz Elff, a former IRB president. O'Neill, the North's only remaining representative in the Pilkington Cup, will not confirm their side to play Wasps in Saturday's quarter-

final tie until the morning of the match (David Hands writes). They will travel south with a squad of 18 and view the playing surface before deciding their XV, though the only query is surely whether to play Paul Manley, an out-and-out open-side flanker.

They are able to restore Nigel Heapel, their England wing, to the side though there may be a slight doubt over Dave Cleary in their back row — hence the addition of Manley. Wasps are at strength, with four internationals in their back division and three in the pack.

Two more capped players, Chris Oti and Steve Bates, make returns after long-standing injuries in the second XV match against Bath United the same day. The bad weather has operated against Bates, the scrum half who might otherwise have challenged for the place in the cup side, while Oti, the wing, has been feeling his way gradually back to fitness after a leg injury.

Harlequins, the 1988 cup winners, have chosen the side that beat Gloucester in the last round against Roslyn Park. Richard Langhorn, at No. 8, is the only uncapped player in the pack.

## Sky loses competition ruling

By PETER GULFORD, INTRASPORT AND MELINDA WITSTOCK

THE European Commission yesterday outlawed an agreement between Sky Television and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), which provided Eurosport, their shared satellite channel, with exclusive rights to broadcast important sporting events.

Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, said Eurosport in its present shape was illegal under EC fair competition rules, violating Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome. With the full backing of his Brussels colleagues, he condemned Eurosport after analysing a complaint lodged over three years ago by Screensport, a rival satellite channel owned by W.H. Smith Television. He said that

the agreement between Sky and the EBU enabled them to cooperate where they should be competing, while at the same time denying access to sports programmes for other satellite or cable services.

An EC statement said: "The effect of these agreements was to limit and distort free competition. This decision will ensure a level playing field between broadcasters of sports events in the European transnational satellite television sector."

Sports footage was being supplied to Eurosport by almost half of the stations in the EBU, which groups together some of Europe's biggest national television networks, including the BBC.

Eurosport yesterday refused to reveal how much of its sports footage came from

EBU members, although a Sky spokesman said it could vary widely from month to month. Sky said Eurosport bought a wide range of sporting programme rights on the "open market", but said there was no set quota.

The ruling has immediate effect and its implementation will allow Screensport and other satellite channels to compete on an equal basis for the rights to European events.

Sky Television, which has been in talks recently to sell its 50 per cent share of Eurosport, said it was too early to make a statement. The company's lawyers were studying the implications of the ruling.

A spokesman for Sir Leon said the EC Commissioner objected so strongly to the very structure of Eurosport that it was hard to conceive of

it being modified. "It must be dismantled in its present form, and there is no obvious way to modify it," he said. The admission of Screensport into the Eurosport consortium would not be enough, serving only to strengthen the venture's monopoly over the market.

The commission also attacked the pricing structure of Eurosport, saying its members had an unfair competitive edge over potential market entrants by avoiding transmission costs through the Eurovision network.

Brittan stressed that it was not banning the 39-member EBU itself, although the allegedly exclusive nature of the EBU is the subject of separate EC anti-trust investigations. The EBU and Sky can appeal within two months.

## Cardiff City face court action from council

By LOUISE TAYLOR

A SQUABBLE between Cardiff city council and Tony Clemo, the chairman of the city's football club, threatens to end with the club being wound up in the High Court.

The club, which is buying Ninian Park from the council, has failed to meet a mortgage instalment of £13,000 due last September, and the council, who have the backing of South Glamorgan county council, are acting on their entitlement to call in the entire outstanding loan of £257,000.

Yesterday, the city council announced that it had gone to the High Court to gain a winding-up order to close the company running the club and

re-possess Ninian Park. It is expected that it will take three to four weeks for the matter to be resolved by the High Court in the interim; the city council is likely to attempt to reach an out-of-court settlement under which it would abandon the legal action in exchange for involvement in the day-to-day running of Cardiff City.

However, there is no danger of Cardiff failing to fulfil this season's fourth division fixtures. Both the city and county councils have previously pledged to provide public money to keep the club alive until a new owner is found.

Wimbledon grounded, page 35

# Sun.



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## Second test clears skater

By JOHN HENNESSY

A SECOND laboratory test has cleared the skater, Marina Klimova, of the Soviet Union, of using illegal drugs during the European ice dance championship at Sofia last month. She will retain the gold medal she won there with her husband, Sergei Ponomarenko, and is free to defend the world title in Munich.

An original test, taken immediately after the five dance in Sofia, had been declared positive. A second, more sophisticated test this week from the same urine sample has contradicted the Sofia finding.

Beat Häser, secretary of the International Skating Union (ISU), said yesterday: "The result of the B analysis [the second] did not confirm the A analysis." He explained that

the first urine sample had pointed to the use of anabolic steroids because the ratio between testosterone and epitestosterone in Klimova's body had been found to be above the six-to-one limit set by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The corroborative test had been carried out at a Cologne laboratory certified by the IOC.

Häser added that the Bulgarians had made a "huge mistake" because there was simply no comparison between the two measurements. He could not say how the mistake had occurred, but speculated that it might have been due to the use of unclear equipment.

The ISU had been irritated by the unauthorized leak of

the result of the first test in Sofia. Now that that finding had been shown to be false, its anger will be more deeply felt.

The development will come as a great relief to Klimova, aged 24, and her partner, six years older. Had the second test confirmed the first, Klimova would have been automatically suspended for two years, preventing them from winning their third world title in Munich next month, and their first Olympic title in Albertville, France, next year.

The free dance of Klimova and Ponomarenko at Sofia, choreographed to the score from David Lean's film, *Lawrence of Arabia*, had been the most physically demanding of their eight-year career together, they said afterwards.

## Finesse triumphs over force

By DAVID RAYNS JONES

RICHARD Corsie, a laconic Scot, beat Robbie Parrella, an extrovert Italian-born Australian, in straight sets yesterday and qualified for the semi-finals of the Midland Bank world indoor bowls singles championship. It was a popular result with the spectators at the Preston Guild Hall.

Nobody denies that Parrella is talented: he is, after all, the Commonwealth Games champion. He is also one of the most interesting personalities at Preston: born in Parma, he played bocce before bowls and, after qualifying as a hairdresser, turned to driving, and now has a taxi firm in Brisbane.

It is his driving on the bowling green, though, that has infuriated people. He hurls heavy density plastic

spheroids down the rink with venomous accuracy, and has been known, down under, to smash a jack or two.

Yesterday, you could detect hostility in the corporate surroundings when the big gun was produced — and extra satisfaction in the applause when Corsie's fine art survived Parrella's barbarism. Some people, it seems, think firing is unfair.

Corsie is not one of them: he is well known as one of the most fearsome firers in the British game. He, too, has smashed jacks. But, against Parrella, the most weight he ever put behind a bowl was when he played for position at the back of the head.

It was a triumph for finesse.

over force. Corsie's disciplined strike rate was disappointing and it was, fittingly, an Italian that left Corsie with the winning shot. The Scot seems the only player, apart from Tony Allcock, to have drawn a map of the portable rink, and remembered every contour. The two are lined up to meet in Sunday's final.

Allcock was in inspirational mood as he skipped David Bryant, with whom he has won the pairs title four times in five attempts, to a straight set win over Jeff McMullan and David Corkill, of Ireland.

RESULTS: Singles: Corsie (Eng) 1-0 Parrella (Aus) 7-1, 7-0. Pairs: Second round: D.J. Bryant and D. Corkill (Ire) 7-4, 7-1, 7-2.

No 63, 048

Iraq

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By MARTIN

HOPES for peace  
Gulf evaporated  
Saddam Hussein's  
speech ruling on  
Iraqi surrender. He  
determination to  
on made the launch  
what the American  
force secretary  
"one of the largest  
assaults of modern  
times" inevitable.

Even as his foreign  
minister was heading for  
one with an answer  
President Gorbachev  
positive. Saddam decried  
"The mother of battles  
in our battle of victory  
marathon. They want  
to surrender but they  
are disappointed."

President Bush called  
Iraq leader's 45-minute  
radio broadcast  
"disappointing" and John  
Major said it contained  
"no sign of compromise". A  
senior Pentagon official  
said the move for the  
Iraqi forces.

Martin Fitzwater, the  
We

These spokesmen, conduct  
of Saddam's "determination  
to maintain the occupation  
of a land of oppression"  
to people and his reason

INSIDE

Bomb hoaxes

sent to prison

is first bomb hoaxes  
sent since the 1970s. A  
London's Victoria station  
used for three months  
only. A 20-year-old Irish  
man admitted having made  
a bomb at Lewisham sta-  
tion.

Page 38

Dates ousted

Page 38

White dilemma

is divided over whether  
to support the victims of  
apartheid.

Page 10

The Arrow plea

There were made to recruit  
the City's wealthiest  
to try to bail out Blue  
crossed £87 million  
of the Central Bank  
of Ireland was told.

Page 23

Living on fuel

The prices may rise in next  
month. Budget. Kevin Eason  
says that drivers can  
expect more.

Page A2

72 results

The results of the In-  
come of Chartered Account-  
ants (ICAEW) will be pub-  
lished in the Times today.  
The ICAs will be on sale  
from 10pm at Victoria  
Railway Station and at  
other stations and at  
other points.

Page 23

INDEX

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23

Page 23